

Lights Out



*Photo Credits:
David Disher - dead birds (3)
Randy Hawkins - Ovenbird rescue*

References & Contacts

Forsyth Audubon

www.forsythaudubon.org

This is your local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Find more information about Lights Out under the Conservation tab. Also see links to Audubon North Carolina and the National Audubon Society. Local businesses can become recognized participants in Lights Out!

American Bird Conservancy

www.abcbirds.org

This is a great source for window collision solutions.

Wildlife Rehab, Inc.

www.wildliferehabinc.org

336-785-0912

This is your contact for rescuing injured birds that are not ready to be released.



Lights OUT!

Winston-Salem



A conservation program of

Forsyth Audubon

Forsythaudubon.org



Lights Out Winston-Salem

What is Lights Out W-S?

This Forsyth Audubon Program promotes turning off all unnecessary nighttime lighting during spring and fall migration to reduce bird casualties.

Is there a problem?

Yes! An estimated **100 million to 1 billion** migratory birds die from window collisions in the U.S. each year!

Migration

Many species of songbirds migrate at night (57 species recorded coming through Winston-Salem). This means **billions** of individuals. These birds are normally active during the day, except during migration.

They travel between North and South America each spring and fall. Some travel several thousand miles each way within weeks. Many birds travel 200-300 miles in one night!

Why migrate at night?

- Cooler temperatures/saves energy
- Much steadier tailwinds make flying more efficient.

Can we make a significant difference?

Yes! With the cooperation of several businesses, the number of bird/window collisions in our downtown area alone has decreased by **one-third** since the program started in 2012, but we can do better!

What can I do?

- 1) Turn off all unnecessary lighting after 11p.m. during spring and fall migration:
 - **March 15-May 31**
 - **Sept. 1-Nov. 30**
 - Outdoor upward facing lights
 - Indoor lighting that shines through windows
- 2) Use shades over windows where light needs to be on and would shine outward.
- 3) Change necessary outdoor lighting to shine only downward. **Green light is best.**
- 4) To the **outside** of the window, add special tape, dots, tempera paint or etching that birds can see, but doesn't detract from people's viewing.
Spacing: 4" horizontal; 2" vertical
- 5) Move indoor plants far away from windows so birds won't try to fly to them.
- 6) Monitor your building or home for dead/injured birds.
- 7) **SHARE THIS INFORMATION!**

How do I monitor my building or home?

- 1) Contact the current Forsyth Audubon Lights Out coordinator for help and detailed instructions. lightsout@forsythaudubon.org
- 2) Have someone check the perimeter of the building each morning (early, say 6 or 7AM) during spring and fall migration.
- 3) If you find a **DEAD** bird, note date, time, your name, and location of the bird (N, S, E, W side of building/home) **in pencil**, and place bird and note in Ziplock bag in freezer, to be transported to Wright's Birding Center.
- 4) If bird is **INJURED** or **STUNNED**, place in paper bag, close the top, and pinch out small air holes.
- 5) If the bird **RECOVERS** within a few hours (lots of flapping in the bag), take it out of town to be released **AWAY** from buildings. Otherwise, keep in dark, quiet place and contact **Wildlife Rehab, Inc. 336-785-0912**

