

News: Bird Walks, Help Birds Migrate Safely, and McCormick Place Update
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Upcoming Bird Walks

Spring bird walks are coming up April 13, April 20, April 28, and May 12. Check out the details on our website > [Events](#)

You Can Help Birds Migrate Safely

**Dim the
Lights
for Birds
at Night**

 Audubon



During spring and fall, it's important to remember that artificial lights and skyglow can be fatal to migrating birds. Most birds migrate at night. Lights can confuse a bird's navigation, causing them to circle repeatedly until they drop from exhaustion or collide with a building as they descend to rest during the day.

While high-rise buildings cause the most deaths, residential and small business buildings also contribute to migratory deaths.

You can help. Over 250 species migrate through the Chicago area, about 8 million individuals in all. At night during migration in our area - March 15 to June 15 - turn off or dim your outside lights and keep your window coverings closed. **The most critical time to dim your lights** is during peak migration, which is May 2 to May 21 in our area. It's that easy to help protect migrating birds.

Learn More:

[Why the Majority of Migrating Birds Fly at Night](#)

[Additional Light Reduction Tips](#)

What You Can Do?



Turn off unnecessary lights.



Down shield exterior lights so they don't spill beyond where they are needed.



Keep indoor light indoors.

National Audubon and International Dark-Sky Association

Update on McCormick Place: Bird Protection Window Film Will Be Installed

In the October 14, 2023, newsletter we reported on the campaign to urge McCormick Place to take bird protection measures after nearly 1,000 birds were

killed by window collisions on October 5. The article included a link to an online petition urging McCormick Place to take action to protect birds. More than 10,600 people helped advocate for bird protection by signing the petition.

Shortly after this, McCormick Place announced that a stricter Lights Out policy was being enforced on campus, with all lights on the east side of Lakeside Center level 3 turned off at night. They also responded that they would pursue additional measures.

Now, McCormick Place has announced that a contract to have bird protection film added to the windows has been signed. Following is the announcement from the McCormick Place website:

Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority Statement Following MPEA Board Meeting on March 26, 2024:

Following the reported bird collision at Lakeside Center in October 2023, MPEA senior staff has consulted with numerous bird and animal experts and advocacy organizations, in addition to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It was identified that window film would be an important measure to deter collisions. The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) is pleased to announce that the MPEA Board awarded a contract for window film that will mitigate local and migratory bird collisions at Lakeside Center. The Board awarded the contract during the March 26, 2024, Board Meeting.

This bird-safe film makes glass more visible for birds and will be installed on windows of Lakeside Center as soon as possible. Due to the specifications of the film, temperatures must be consistently above 50 degrees Fahrenheit to ensure the product properly sticks to the windows. The Authority intends to begin installation once weather conditions allow.



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