

Central Minnesota Audubon Society  
212 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Cold Spring MN 56320

Jan. 20, 2023

Princeton City Hall  
705 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North  
Princeton, MN 55371

**Re: Lights Out Program**

Dear Mayor Thom Walker:

Central Minnesota Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, in conjunction with Audubon Minnesota, is promoting the Lights Out Program during bird migration in central Minnesota and asks for your support. The Central Minnesota Area is part of the Mississippi migration corridor for many of our bird species.

Birds that migrate at night can be thrown off course, become disoriented, or collide with buildings due to lights. Many birds are killed or injured in collisions or become exhausted after circling, reluctant to fly out of the lighted area. The Lights Out program can dramatically reduce this result.

Besides saving birds, The Lights Out Program saves a considerable amount of energy. The saving for a building can be significant.

Lights Out is a voluntary program where building owners, managers and tenants work to ensure that all unnecessary lighting is turned off during Lights Out dates and times. We ask to turn off lights between midnight and dawn from March 15 through May 31<sup>st</sup> for Spring migration and from August 15<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> for Fall migration.

Participants are asked to turn off exterior decorative lighting, dim or turn off lobby and atrium lighting, and turn off interior lights, principally on upper stories. Security lights should be left on as needed for safety. Street level lights should preferably be down shielded, and airplane warning lights should be maintained.

Any building, regardless of size, can participate! To learn more and sign-up, visit:

<https://mn.audubon.org/conservation/lights-out-program>

Audubon Minnesota Lights Out Program information sheets attached.

Sincerely,

Central Minnesota Audubon Society – CMAS  
Daniel Kneip – president  
centralmnaudubon@gmail.com



# Lights Out

Save Birds • Save Energy • Save Money

## Lights Out Saves Birds

Over 250 species of birds migrate through Minnesota each spring and fall. Many birds migrate at night and can be drawn off course by lighted structures in their flight path and are often killed or injured in collisions with buildings.

Lights Out can reduce these collisions! A study by the Field Museum in Chicago found that turning off the lights at one downtown high-rise reduced migratory bird deaths by 83%.

## Lights Out Saves Energy and Money

Turning off building lights at night is good for birds *and* people and the planet! By saving electricity, it cuts of the cost of doing business, and by reducing energy use, helps to lower carbon pollution.

## How Does Lights Out Work?

Lights Out is a voluntary program where building owners, managers, and tenants work together to ensure that unnecessary lighting is turned off from midnight until dawn during Lights Out dates:

- March 15 to May 31 for spring migration
- August 15 to October 31 for fall migration

## What Can Building Owners and Managers Do?

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting (leave security lights on as needed for safety)
- Dim lobby and atrium lighting
- Turn off interior lights – especially upper floors

## What Can Employees and Tenants Do?

- If you need to work at night, use task lighting rather than overhead lighting, or, close the blinds or drapes.
- Talk with your employer and co-workers about Lights Out

**Save birds, energy, and money by turning off unnecessary lights.** If your building would like to be involved in Lights Out, just turn out some lights and let us know! Email us at [mnaudubon@audubon.org](mailto:mnaudubon@audubon.org).



American Redstarts are one of more than 250 bird species that migrate through Minnesota and benefit from Lights Out.  
Photo by Rebecca Field