

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Baltimore, MD – THE BIRD-SAFE BALTIMORE NETWORK JOINS NATIONAL LIGHTS OUT PROGRAM TO HELP MIGRATING BIRDS

Up to one billion birds die annually from colliding with glass in the United States. Most bird collisions locally occur during migration months (April, May, September, and October) as birds are passing through Maryland to reach their breeding or wintering grounds. In Baltimore, Lights Out Baltimore volunteers find an average of 500 birds dead or injured per year from window collisions while monitoring 25+ buildings downtown during spring and fall migration. Since 2008, over 5,000 migratory birds have been found dead or injured in downtown Baltimore by this small team of volunteers. Knowing this, we can start to imagine the problem at scale.

A huge win for birds has finally happened in Baltimore, the city coined as “Birdland”: Bird-Safe Baltimore is a newly formed network of community partners whose mission is to ensure safe passage for birds, through education, collision mitigation, and legislation. Following in the footsteps of other large city collaborations such as Lights Out Philly, Lights Out Ohio, and more, Baltimore is joining this national movement to protect migratory birds. “Taking action is especially important when we consider that bird populations in the U.S. have declined 25% since 1970. Building this network of partners to educate everyone about the death of birds from window collisions in Baltimore can only lead to saving birds,” says Genevieve LaRouche, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office Supervisor.

Bird-Safe Baltimore encourages businesses and residents across the city for four months each year (April, May, September, and October) to [Take the Pledge](#) to turn off non-essential lights between 11 PM and 6 AM, keeping indoor lights indoors by drawing blinds/curtains, using warm-colored bulbs like amber or yellow, and utilizing timers and motion sensors when possible. Bird-Safe Baltimore’s mitigation efforts focus on making glass visible to migrating birds by addressing transparency and reflectivity. “We are excited to be a part of Bird Safe Baltimore. They have been a valuable partner in making our entire campus bird-safe, advising us on adding dotted film to existing glass and on our replacement of the entire *Upland Tropical Rain Forest* glass pyramid with bird-safe, fretted glass. Together, we’re working to inspire others to do their part to conserve local bird species,” states John Racanelli, President and CEO of National Aquarium.

This year, Maryland passed the Sustainable Buildings Act to ensure state-funded buildings are bird-safe by minimizing glass and reducing light pollution. Bird-Safe Baltimore is taking a city-wide step to protect birds. Bird-Safe Baltimore will not only save birds, but money and energy. A win for people, the environment, and birds like the beloved Baltimore Oriole.

You can find out more about Bird-Safe Baltimore and affirm your commitment by taking the pledge at birdsafebaltimore.org.

Sincerely,

The Bird Safe Baltimore team, founded by the following partners

