



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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**Community College of Baltimore County Dundalk Campus
Conserves Migratory Birds from Collisions**

(Baltimore, MD) — The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Dundalk campus has installed Acopian BirdSavers to the Student Services Center first and second floor windows to prevent bird collisions and conserve species in decline.

This is a huge win for birds, because it is estimated that up to one billion birds die annually from colliding with glass in the United States. Most bird collisions occur locally during migration months (April, May, September, and October) as birds are passing through Charm City to reach their breeding or wintering grounds.

In Baltimore City, where volunteer citizen-scientists monitor 20 downtown buildings during those four migration months, a minimum of 400 bird fatalities are identified annually. Lights Out Baltimore—a project of the Baltimore Bird Club, itself a chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society—is an organization making Baltimore safe for migratory birds. Lights Out Baltimore achieves this by organizing this monitoring, conducting educational outreach on the issue at community events year-round, and advocating for sustainable building design and/or lighting practices with property owners, managers, developers, and public officials that will reduce light pollution and bird collisions.

To reduce hazards for migratory birds, Baltimore became recognized as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Bird Treaty City in 2016, a program that works with city partners to conserve birds, build habitat, and engage citizens of wildlife in the urban location.

“The Urban Bird Treaty City program promotes cities as sanctuaries for birds and other wildlife through environmentally aware citizenry. This is not only good for birds, but also for the health and well-being of people living in and visiting America’s urban landscapes,” noted Genevieve LaRouche, Supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Chesapeake Bay Field Office. “Lights Out Baltimore and the CCBC exemplify how partners can work together to conserve migratory birds and other wildlife living in or passing through Baltimore.”

CCBC’s Dundalk Campus joins the first organization in Baltimore to prevent collisions by installing a visual barrier onto existing glass surfaces: The National Aquarium, which added a 3M™ film to a high strike area on its Glass Pavilion in August 2018.

Bryan Lenz, Bird Collisions Campaign Manager for the American Bird Conservancy, praises the actions undertaken by CCBC and Lights Out Baltimore. “Up to one billion birds die in the U.S. each year after



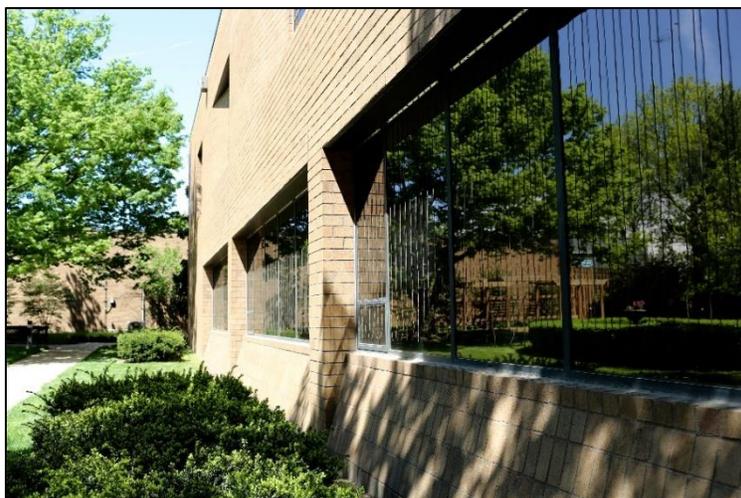
colliding with glass. Ninety-nine percent of these collisions happen at buildings under 11 stories tall, which perfectly describes a college campus. This gives colleges and universities an important role to play not only in reducing collisions but also in educating the next generation of building owners, designers, and managers so that we can build a society that values birds and actively works to reduce needless collision deaths.”

Community College of Baltimore County President Sandra Kurtinitis said, “The mission of the CCBC Sustainability Committees is to promote sustainable initiatives on campus, to educate and engage students in environmentally sound practices, and to inform college-wide policy related to ecological issues. The Sustainability Committee on the Dundalk campus was actively seeking an impactful initiative to undertake to bring awareness to the campus community. The collaboration with Lights Out Baltimore provided an excellent opportunity.”

Acopian BirdSavers, also known as “Zen curtains,” were selected as a solution for CCBC’s bird collision problem and were funded and installed by Lights Out Baltimore. Acopian BirdSavers are efficient in preventing collisions by providing a visual barrier every 2 by 4 inches, which research has demonstrated is the minimum safe dimensions for glass treatment to reduce bird collisions. The BirdSavers maintain a view of the outside while protecting birds.

Lights Out Baltimore Director Lindsay Jacks said, “This forward-thinking decision by CCBC Dundalk to protect migratory birds has demonstrated conservation leadership and will hopefully inspire other college campuses to do the same.” She continued, “While both Towson University and the University of Maryland in College Park have monitoring programs similar to ours in downtown Baltimore, we hope that with growing awareness of this important issue and the relatively simple, low-cost solution that Acopian BirdSavers provides, more college campuses and private building owners and managers will take positive and preventive action.”

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Photographs courtesy of Lynne Parks. To request high resolution photographs, please contact lightsoutbaltimore@gmail.com

ABOUT LIGHTS OUT BALTIMORE

Lights Out Baltimore is a nonprofit project of the Baltimore Bird Club, a local chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Our goal is to make Baltimore safe for migratory birds by turning out decorative lighting in the city during peak migration months, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., and to advocate for bird-safe building design that makes glass and windows visible to birds. Each migration season, volunteers walk downtown Baltimore to rescue injured birds from collisions and collect the dead. Injured birds are taken to Phoenix Wildlife Center and dead birds are taken to Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and John Hopkins University School of Medicine for research. Since 2008, 4,000 birds have been collected and more than 1,000 have been rescued.