



Who are we?

Lights Out Baltimore (LOB) is a 501 c3 non-profit formed by a group of concerned birdwatchers in the Baltimore Bird Club, a chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society who had seen firsthand the toll lights and windows play on birds. Our goal is to make Charm City safe for migratory birds by turning out decorative lighting in the city during peak migration seasons, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. and to advocate for bird-safe lighting and building design.

Why are we called Lights Out?

Birds migrate every year by navigation of the moon and stars. These birds become disoriented when flying over brightly lit buildings in city areas. Once the birds fly into the city confused by the lights, the urban environment becomes a deadly trap. Buildings with clear glass or reflective glass cause birds to collide with the building. These collisions can kill or injure the bird. An estimated 1 billion birds die each year from collisions. Our goal at Lights Out Baltimore is to turn all decorative lighting in downtown Baltimore off during migration months, encourage task lighting, and better lighting practices in downtown buildings.

What we do?

A core group of volunteers walk downtown Baltimore during fall and spring migration to rescue injured birds from window collisions and collect dead birds. Injured ones are taken to Phoenix Wildlife Center and dead ones are taken to the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. Over 4000 birds have been found dead or injured since monitoring the Baltimore streets in 2008 and over 1000 have been rescued including migratory bats. An average of 450 birds die annually in Baltimore from monitoring 20 buildings 4 months a year.

LOB has partnered with US Fish and Wildlife under the Urban Bird Treaty for more bird habitats in Baltimore and mitigating hazards for migratory birds. LOB has been featured on 98 Rock, *Baltimore Sun*, *Washington Post*, *Baltimore* magazine, WMAR-TV ABC2, WBFF Fox 45, and WJZ-TV CBS. In 2016, LOB collaborated with Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts to make Light City bird-friendly. Local partners include Chesapeake USFW, Maryland-DC Audubon, Waterfont Partnership, American Bird Conservancy, and National Aquarium.