

City of Stillwater, Minnesota

Proclamation

WHEREAS, bird/glass collisions in the U.S. are estimated to cause as many as one billion bird deaths each year. These deaths are one of the factors most responsible for a 29% decline in North American bird populations since 1970. About 70% of North America's land birds (350-400 species) are migratory. Of these, more than 80% migrate at night. Most native songbirds live in rural or forested habitats that are light-free at night. During migration, intense lights can cause birds to collide with windows or walls, or cause them to circle in confusion, leaving them weak and exhausted when they land; and

WHEREAS, each year, 250 species, and millions of birds pass through the St. Croix Valley, during spring and fall while migrating between their breeding and wintering grounds. Many birds never complete their perilous journey because they fatally collide with buildings and windows, confused by the bright lights and glass; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stillwater is located along a major neotropical pathway, the Mississippi flyway. Research has shown that eliminating non-essential indoor and exterior lighting between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM during spring and fall migration (from midnight to until dawn, during the dates of March 15th to May 31, and August 15th to October 31) can significantly reduce bird mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon National Lights Out Program was established to protect birds from light pollution. 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 off the costs of doing business, and by reducing energy use, helps to lower carbon pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon Lights Out program encourages municipal and commercial building owners and managers to turn off or redirect excess lighting, dim lobby and atrium lighting, turn off interior lights - especially upper floors and take other actions during the months birds are migrating to help provide safe passage between bird nesting and wintering grounds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stillwater, along with Bird City Stillwater (SSMN Org.), will encourage municipal and commercial building owners, managers, and residents, to participate in the Lights Out program. The City will utilize currently available resources to switch off non-essential lights in City facilities. The implementation of a Lights Out program may help to reduce energy use and carbon emissions consistent with City Resolutions.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ted Kozlowski, Mayor of the City of Stillwater, do hereby proclaim March - May and August - October as

~ **BIRD MIGRATION AWARENESS and LIGHTS OUT MONTHS,**
for Bird Migratory Awareness! ~

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Stillwater to be affixed this 6th day of September, 2022.





Mayor