



¡Lights Out, Texas!



Azalia Rodríguez
Texas Representative







Painted bunting

WHAT IS LIGHTS OUT, TEXAS!

EDUCACIÓN, AWARENESS, ACCIÓN that focuses on turning off lights at night during Spring and Fall migration of primavera y otoño.

Goals:

Objetivos: Increase statewide participation at the business, local, official,

- Aumentar la participación a escala estatal en los ámbitos municipal, local, oficial, municipal y comunitario
- Reducir la mortalidad de aves migratorias
- Reducir la mortalidad de aves migratorias and report data
- Coordinar los esfuerzos de los voluntarios locales para recoger y comunicar datos



THE BEGINNING

Largest Collision in Galveston in 2017:

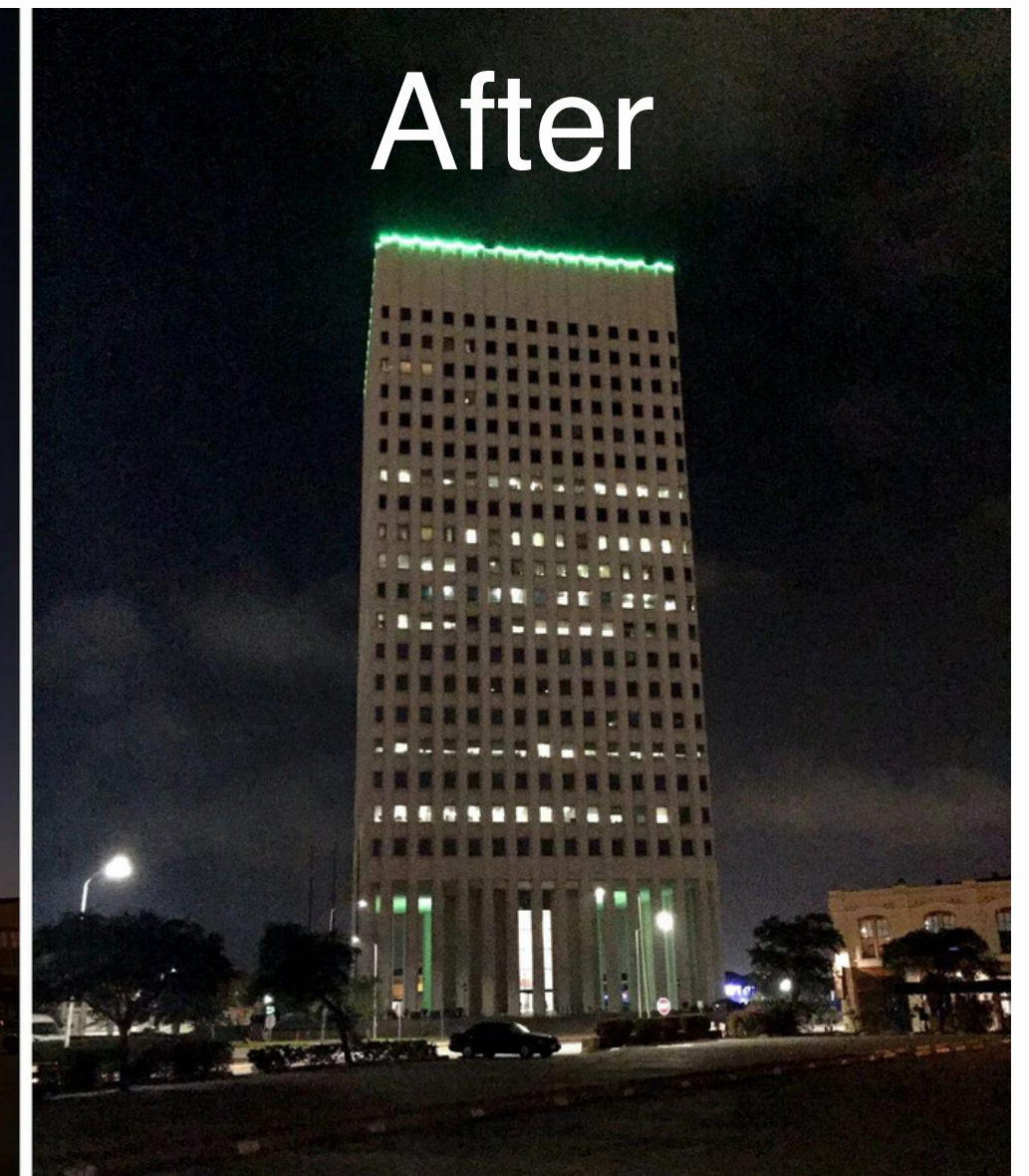
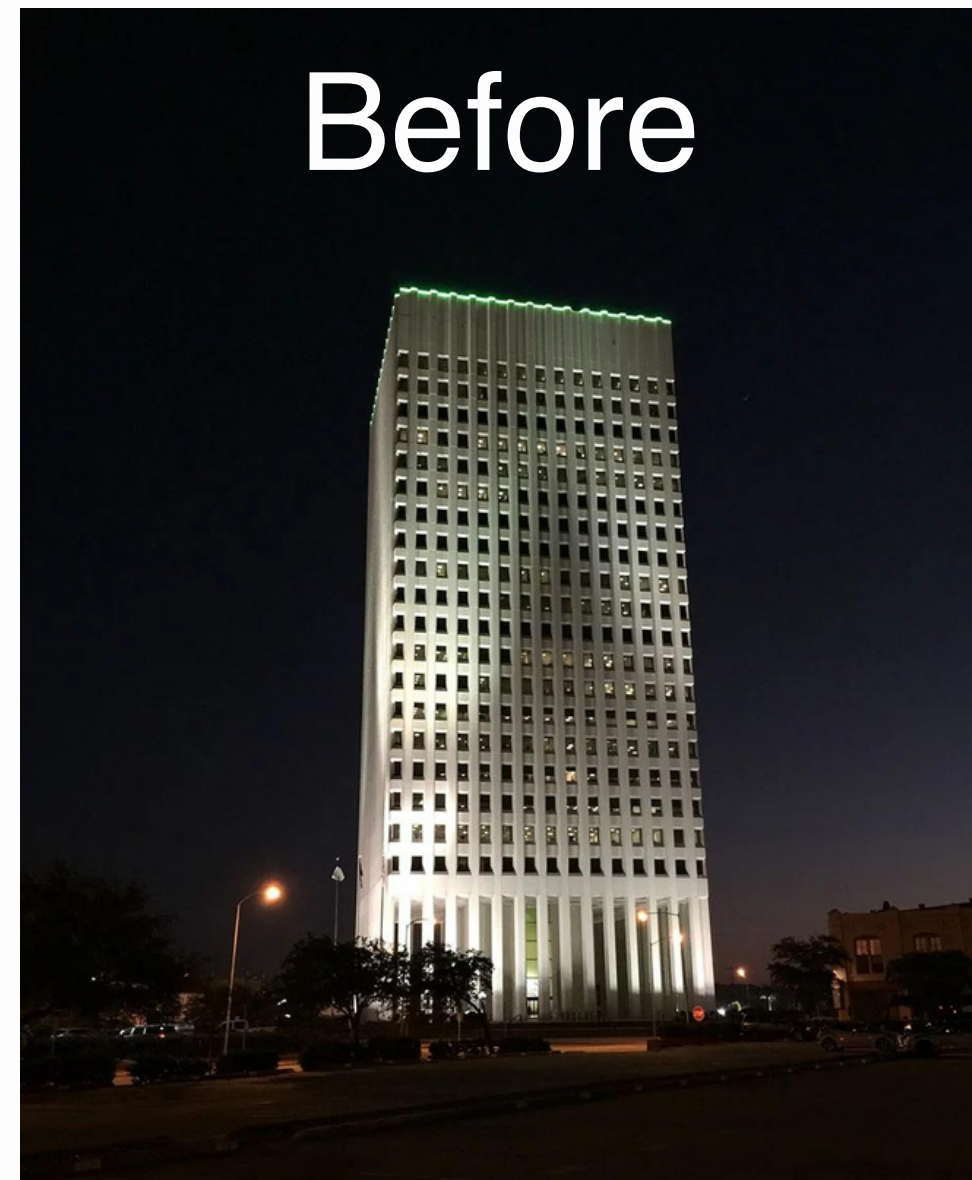
A major bird collision event that killed nearly 400 birds in a single night.

Lights Out Texas was modeled in Dallas in 2020:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Texas Conservation Alliance, The Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas Zoo, and Texan by Nature

Statewide Expansion in 2021:

Facilitated by Audubon Texas.



PARTNERS

Austin

- City of Austin, Office of Sustainability
- City of Dripping Springs
- Hill Country Alliance
- Travis Audubon
- Travis County

DFW

- Acton Nature Center
- Audubon Dallas
- City of Arlington
- City of Dallas, Mayor's Office
- City of Fort Worth and Downtown Fort Worth
- City of Cedar Hill
- Dallas Zoo
- Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center
- Ellis County Master Naturalists
- Fort Worth Museum of History and Science
- Friends of Fort Worth Nature Center
- Heard Natural Science & Wildlife Sanctuary
- Perot Museum of Nature and Science
- Texas Conservation Alliance
- Trinity River Audubon Center
- University of Texas at Arlington

Houston & Gulf Coast

- City of Houston
- City of Galveston
- Houston Audubon
- Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
- The Houston Museum of Natural Science

San Antonio

- Bexar Audubon Society
- Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
- The Witte Museum

West Texas

- Big Bend Conservation Alliance
- El Paso Trans Pecos Audubon Society
- University of Texas at El Paso

Statewide

- Defenders of Wildlife
- The Nature Conservancy

National

- American Bird Conservancy
- Audubon
- National Wildlife Federation



IMPORTANCE

Birds provide:

- Ecosystem services
- A benchmark for environmental health
- Increasing livability
- Connect people of all ages and abilities to the natural world.

Birds support the Texas economy. In the Rio Grande Valley alone, Texas A&M found that nature tourism – which is dominated by bird watching – contributes:

- \$300 million
- 4,407 full and part-time jobs annually

American Woodcock



MOST BIRDS IN NORTH AMERICA ARE MIGRATORY

70%

of terrestrial recurring birds are migratory.

80%

of those birds migrate at night.



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION



DANGEROUS SKIES:

Estimated Annual Mortality from Collision Threats to Birds



Graphic by Bartels Science Illustrator Megan Bishop, Living Bird 2018

Graphic: Cornell Lab of Ornithology



THE PROBLEM

Houston is ranked #2 of the 125 largest US cities for light pollution exposure risks to nocturnally migrating birds



The Dallas-Fort Worth metro area is ranked #3 of the 125 largest US cities for light pollution exposure risks to nocturnally migrating birds







Very bad
Muy mala

Bad
Mala

Better
Mejor

Best
Mas Mejor

Before

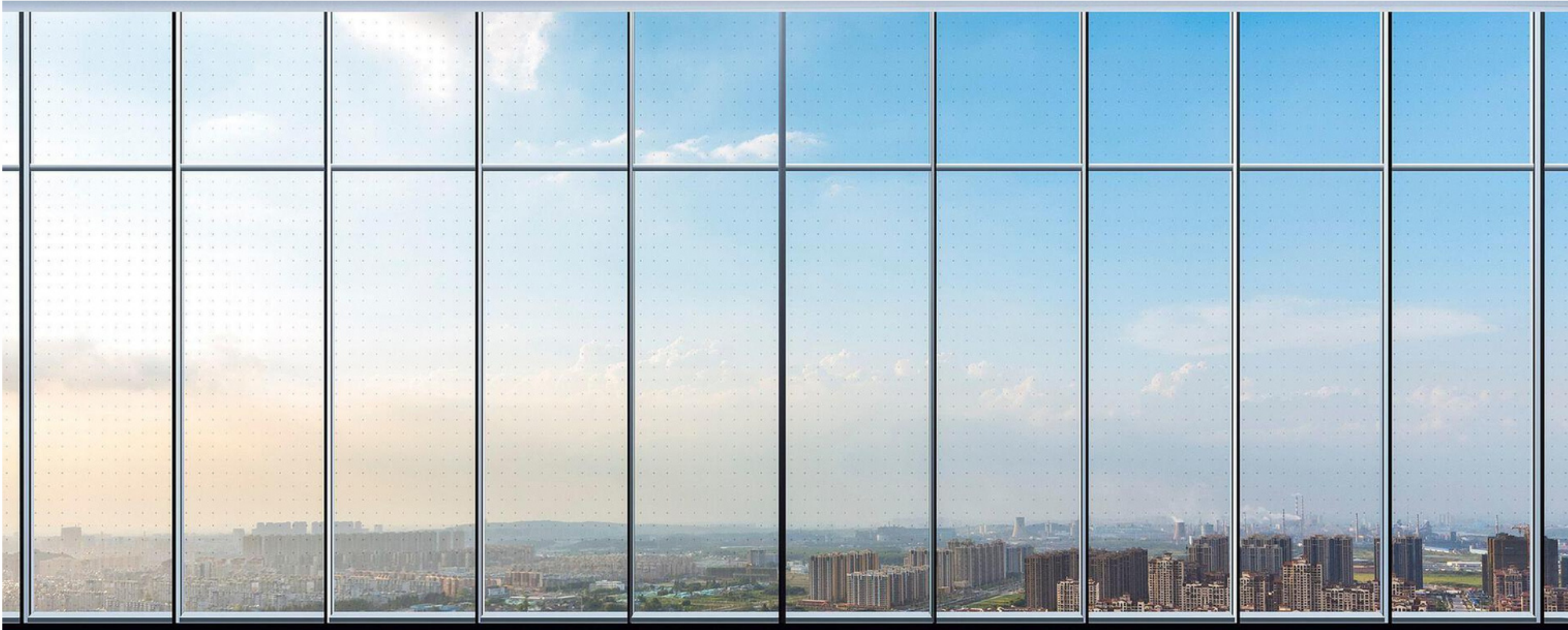


After



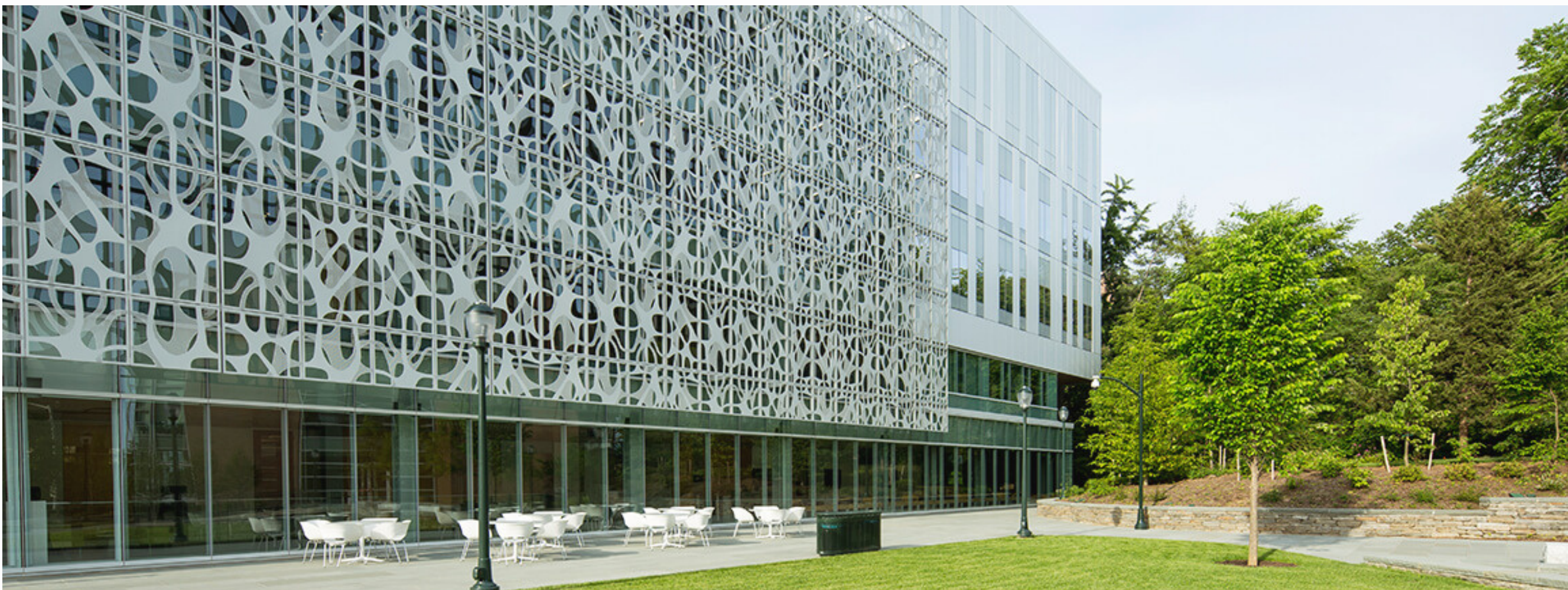
Graphic: MacDonald Observatory



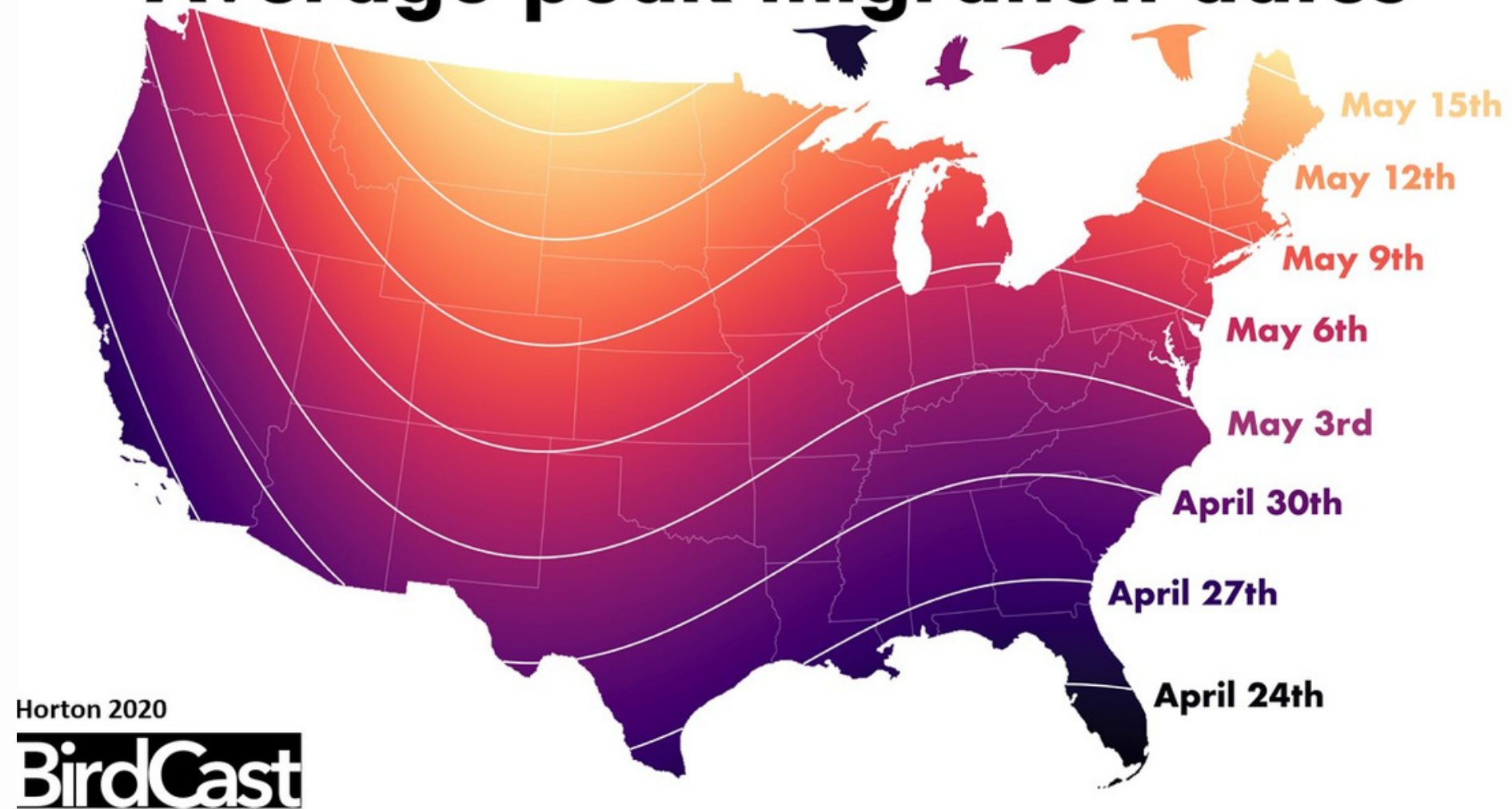


Birds don't understand the concept of glass as an invisible barrier that can also be a mirror.

They take what they see literally:
Glass appears habitat they can fly into, whether that habitat is reflected or visible through glass.



Average peak migration dates



Spring Migration

March 1 - June 15

1 of every 3 birds migrating through the U.S. in Spring passes through Texas

Fall Migration

August 15 - November 30

1 of every 4 birds migrating through the U.S. in Fall passes through Texas

Peak Migration

Spring: April 22 - May 12

Fall: September 5 - October 29



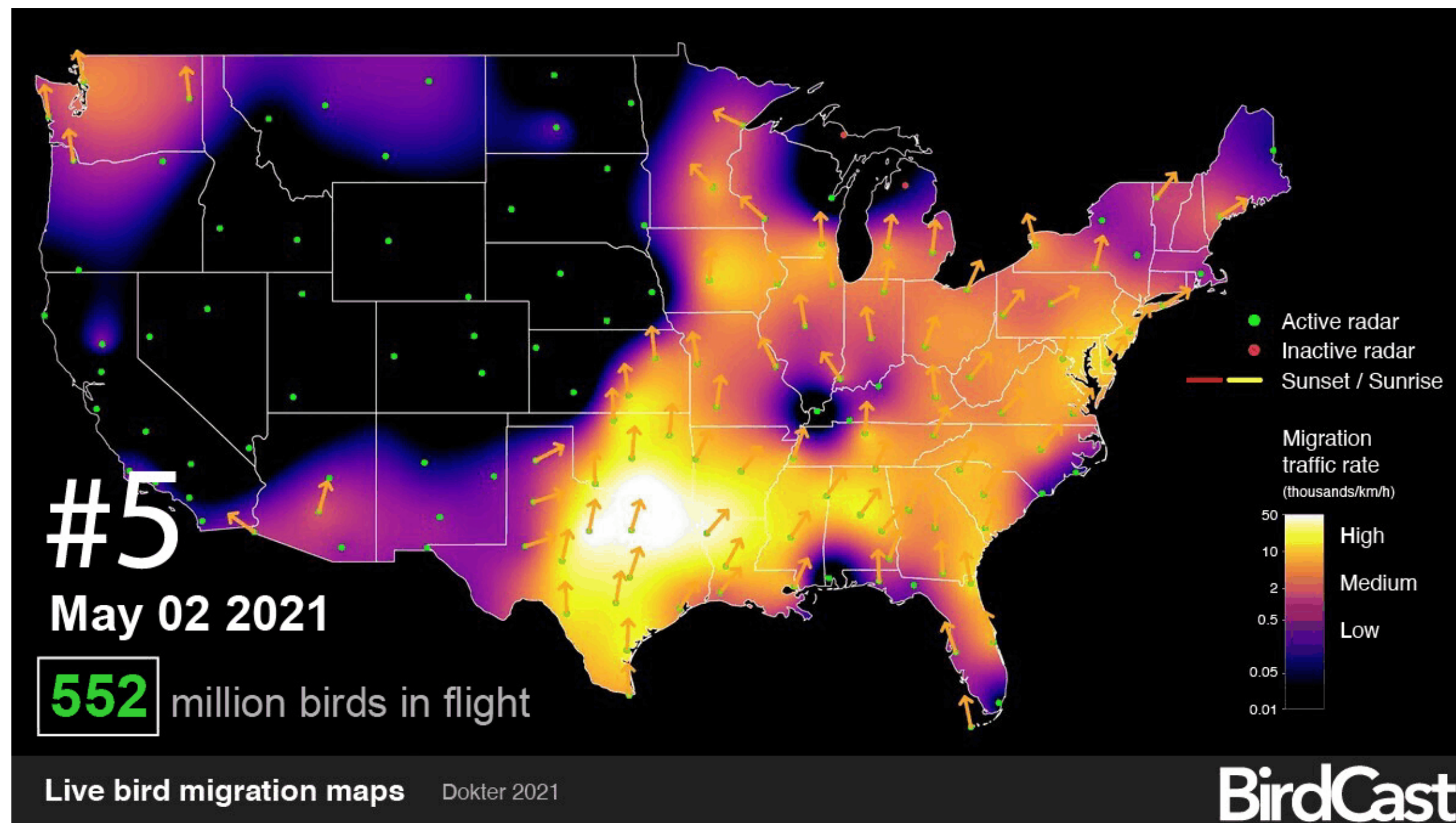
BIRDCAST

Predict and monitor bird migration.

01 Forecast bird migration maps that predict where and when bird migration will occur across the continental US

02 Live bird migration maps that show where migration is occurring in real-time

03 Migration alerts to which one can subscribe to learn when high bird migration will occur in your area.



Top 5 migration nights, by ranking of the biggest flight nights for nocturnally migrating birds over the contiguous US during Spring 2021.



[Home](#) > [Migration tools](#)

Local bird migration alerts

ACTIVE Forecasting ends Jun 15, 2023

Search with our local migration alert tool to determine whether birds are passing overhead near your city tonight!

BirdCast provides live and local bird migration alerts throughout the continental US by employing real-time analysis of bird migration traffic as detected by radar. You can use this tool to determine whether birds are migrating in your area tonight in low, medium, or high densities. Find your area among the featured cities in the drop down menu or using the search bar! Besides providing curious birders information on local migration and where and when to go birding, these alerts serve an important conservation need. They can provide timely information about nights of high intensity migration (otherwise referred to as peak migration), only a handful of which occur throughout a given season. This allows effective targeting of the

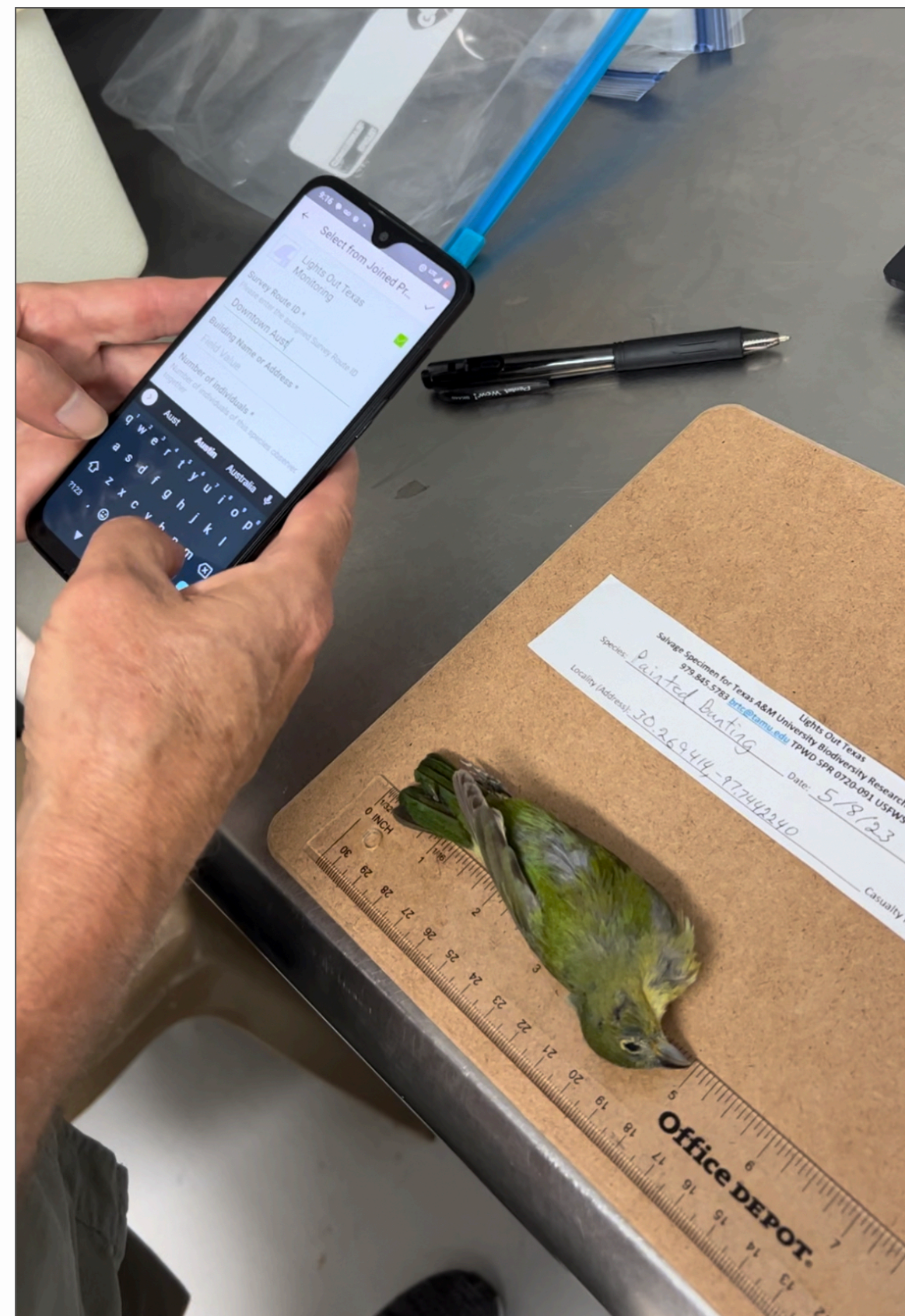
Migration tools

[Bird migration forecast maps](#)[Live bird migration maps](#)[Local bird migration alerts](#)[Migration Dashboard](#)

Go to birdcast.info



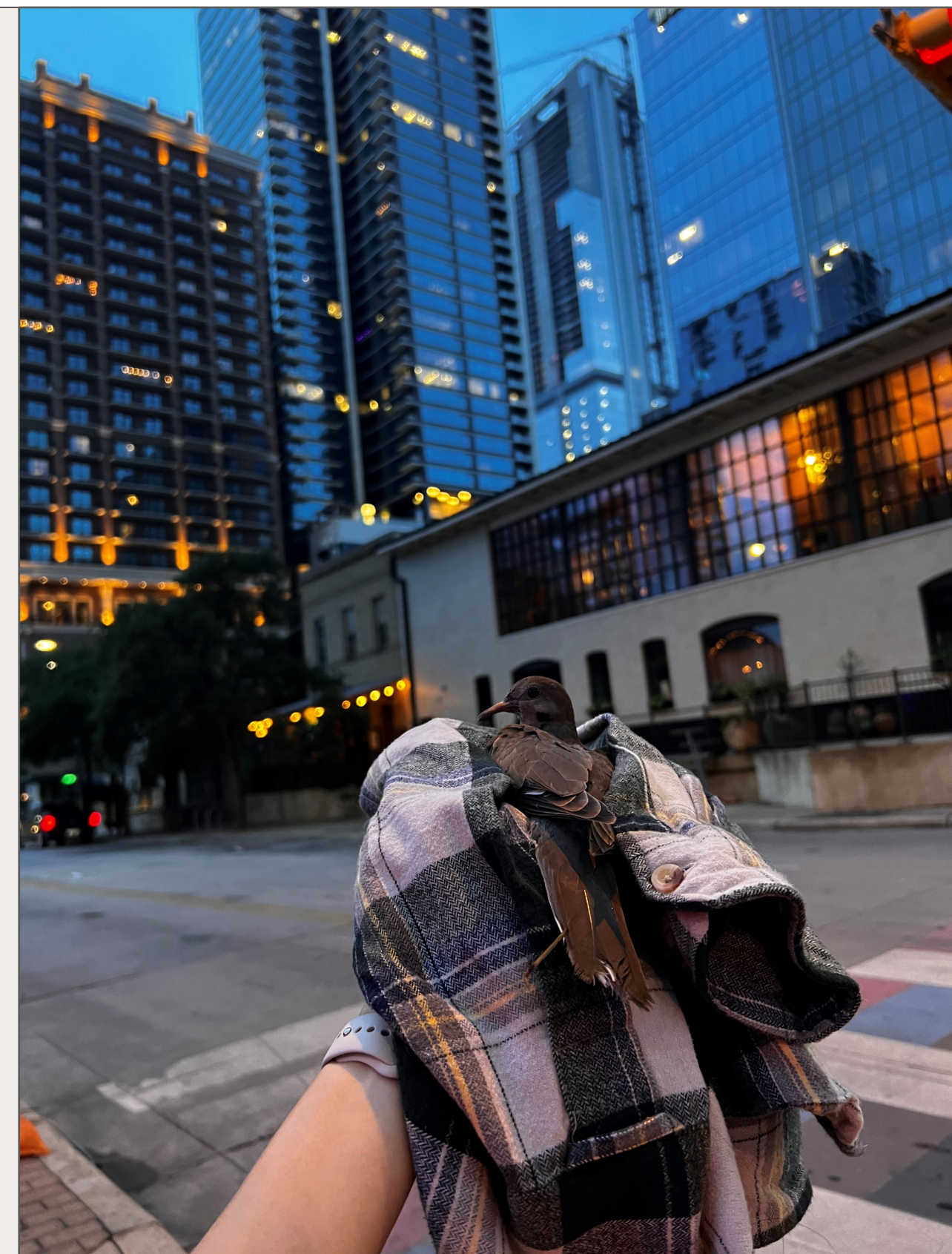
BUILDING COLLISION STUDY



To better understand migration dynamics and how light pollution and building collisions impact birds.

Collected birds are sent to the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections at Texas A&M University.

- Austin
- Dallas
- Houston
- San Antonio
- West Texas
- University of Texas at El Paso



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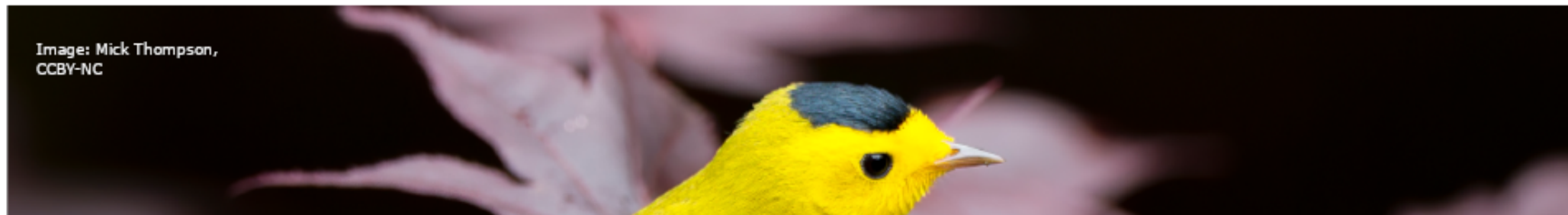
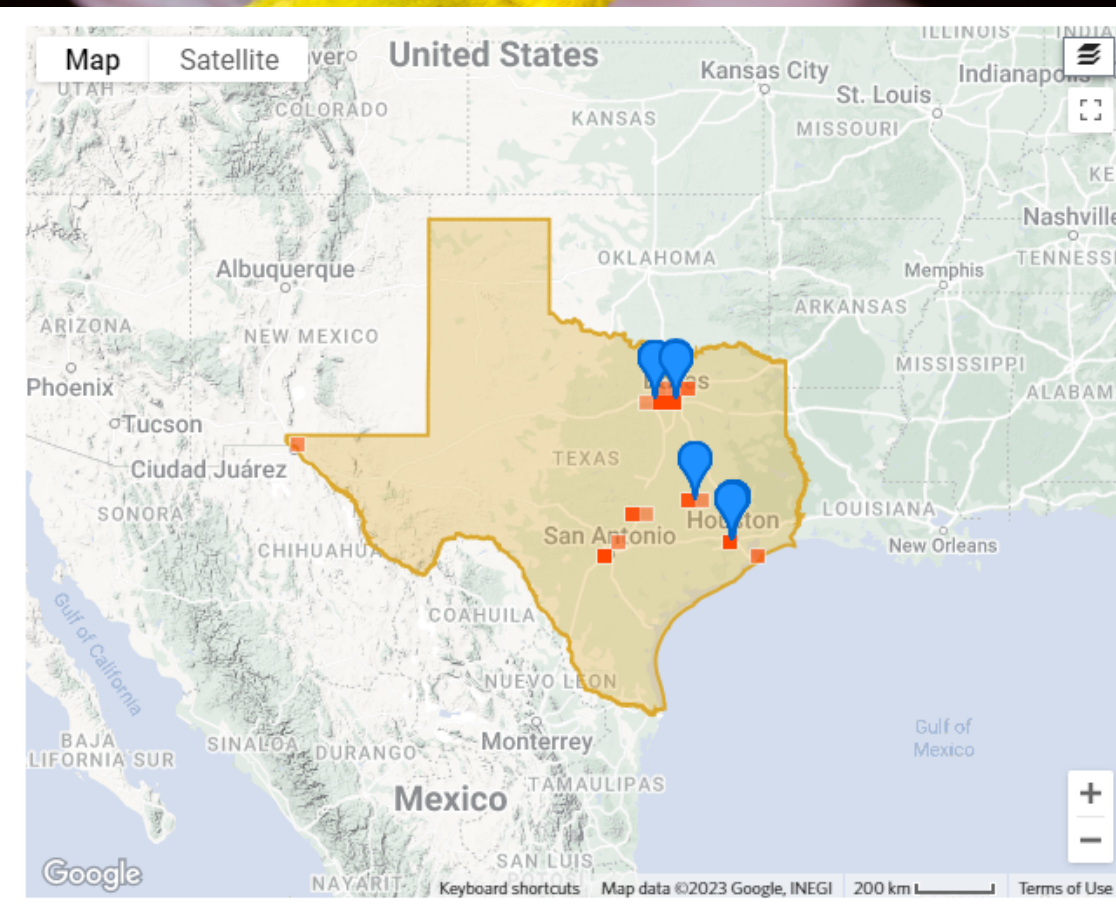


Image: Mick Thompson, CCBY-NC



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Stats

Totals

2289
Observations »

116
Species »

152
People »

About

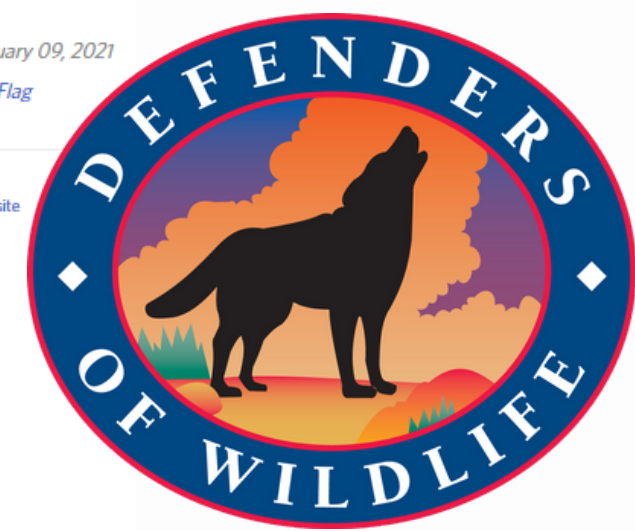
This project will collect data and observations that will help us to better understand the dynamics of bird migration and to clarify the degree to which migration interacts with factors like nighttime lighting to cause different bird species to collide with buildings in bright urban areas of Texas. Much of the collision monitoring data collected will serve as baseline datasets to compare bird ...more ↓

Recent observations View All



taniahomayoun created this project on February 09, 2021
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GET INVOLVED!

Guidelines for EVERYONE:

01 Turn off all non-essential lights from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each night during migration season.

02 Do not use landscape lighting to light up trees or gardens where birds may be resting.

03 For essential lights (like security lighting) use the following dark skies friendly lighting practices:

- Aim lights down
- Use lighting shields to direct light downwards and to avoid light shining into the sky or trees
- Use motion detectors and sensors so lights are only on when you need them
- Close blinds at night to reduce the amount of light being emitted from windows



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



A bird with black, orange, and yellow feathers is shown in flight against a black background. The bird's wings are spread, and its tail is visible. The text "LIGHTS OUT TEXAS" is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image.

LIGHTS OUT TEXAS

[Click to watch video](#)



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