



# Lights Out for Birds Bay Area, Spring 2013

**Turn out lights, draw blinds, or use task lighting at night to save birds' lives during spring migration.**

## Lights Out for Birds

Over 200 species of birds pass through the Bay Area during spring migration, which runs from February 15 through May 31st. Many birds navigate at night by the stars and can be confused by urban lights. Drawn off course by brightly-lit buildings, they often die from window collisions or circle buildings until exhausted.

A study by the Field Museum in Chicago found that turning off the lights at one downtown high-rise reduced migratory bird deaths there by 80 percent.

## Lights Out for People

Turning off building lights at night is good for people and the planet as well as birds. By saving electricity, it cuts the cost of doing business, and by reducing energy use, it helps moderate climate change.

## What You Can Do

- Turn off building lights from dusk until dawn, between February 15<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- This includes internal lighting, external decorative lights and lobby or atrium lights. (Security lights should be left on as needed for safety.)
- Install timers and motion detectors to minimize use of lights at night. PG&E offers rebates of \$5 to \$50 for each new occupancy sensor you install, and rebates of \$15 for each indoor timer.
- Individuals who need to work at night should draw the blinds or use task lighting.
- Add the name of your business to the list of companies participating in Lights Out for Birds. This will help us promote and track the impact of Lights Out.
- **Spread the word!** Post flyers in your building and let people know about Lights Out in employee newsletters and social media.



Peregrine Falcon  
© Photo courtesy David Assmann

For more information, please see:

[goldengateaudubon.org/conservation/make-the-city-safe-for-wildlife/learn-about-lights-out-san-francisco/](http://goldengateaudubon.org/conservation/make-the-city-safe-for-wildlife/learn-about-lights-out-san-francisco/)

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