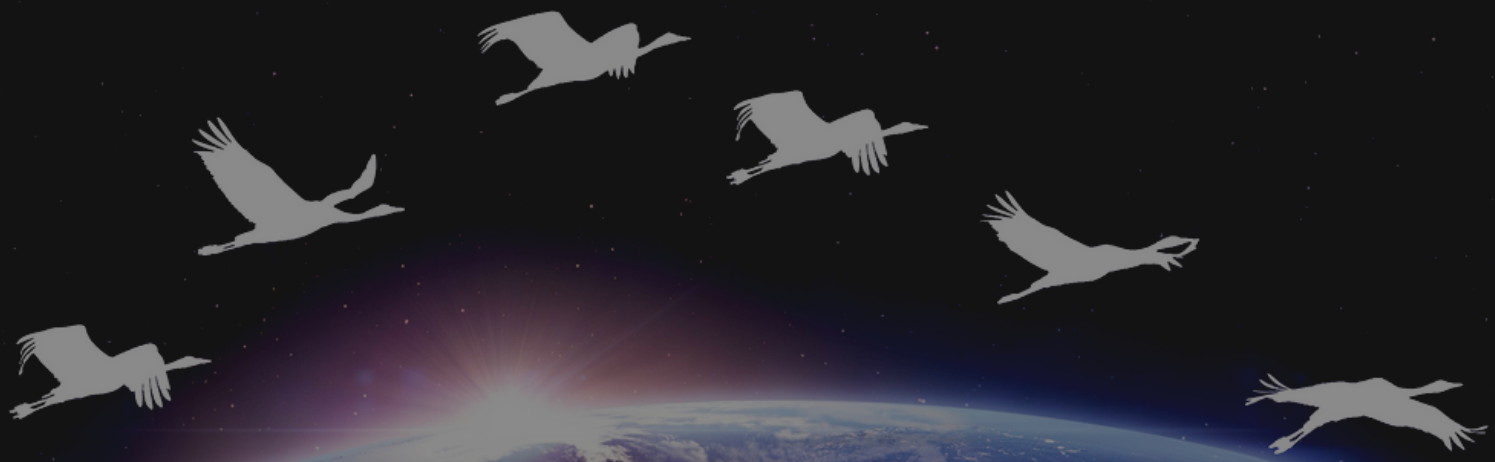
World Migratory Bird Day

"Dim the Lights for Birds at Night!"



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

2022 Campaign Strategy

CMS AEWA UNEP

Key Information

Theme

Impact of Light Pollution on Migratory Birds

Key Dates

– MAY PEAK DAY: Saturday, 14 May 2022
– OCTOBER PEAK DAY: Saturday, 8 October 2022

Slogan

ENGLISH **Dim the Lights for Birds at Night!**
SPANISH **Noches oscuras, migraciones seguras.**
FRENCH **Des nuits noires pour les vols migratoires**
RUSSIAN **Притуши огни ради птиц в ночи!**
ARABIC **أخفت الأضواء ليلاً لمساعدة الطيور المهاجرة**
CHINESE **熄灯，让候鸟安全回家**
PORTUGUESE **Noites escuras, migrações seguras**
KISWAHILI **Punguzia ndege mwangaza usiku!**

Website

www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

Social Media

@WMBD

fb.com/worldmigratorybirdday

worldmigratorybirdday

#worldmigratorybirdday
#WMBD2022
#DimLightsForBirds

About World Migratory Bird Day

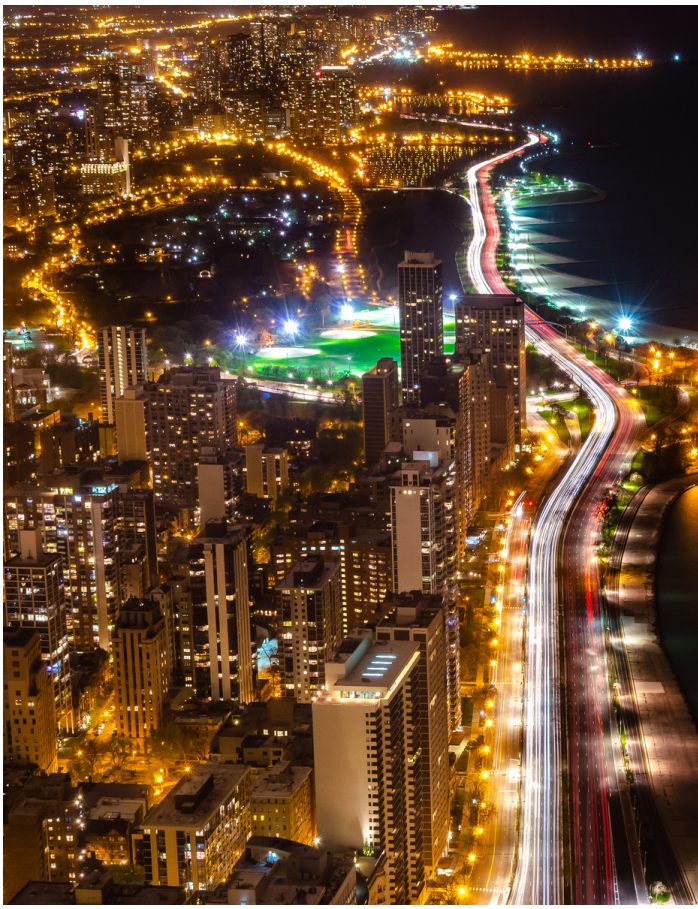
The overall mission of World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is to raise awareness of migratory birds and issues related to their conservation. The campaign highlights the importance of international cooperation and encourages national and local action to protect migratory birds.

World Migratory Bird Day is organized by a collaborative partnership among two UN treaties – the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), and the non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA). The 2022 global campaign is also being actively supported by other dedicated organizations, including the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and BirdLife International (BLI).

The roots of World Migratory Bird Day can be traced back to 1993, when International Migratory Bird Day was created in the Americas to focus public attention on the need for international cooperation to conserve birds and habitats. In 2006, World Migratory Bird Day was initiated by CMS and AEWA, originally as a measure to counteract the negative publicity migratory birds were receiving across the world due to Avian Influenza. About a decade later, in 2017, the two campaigns joined forces, and World Migratory Bird Day has now become a truly global effort. Past World Migratory Bird Day themes have focused on issues such as climate change, barriers to migration, illegal killing of birds, and plastic pollution.

The Theme for WMBD 2022

LIGHT POLLUTION



What is Light Pollution?

The use of artificial light at night is increasing all over the world. Satellite monitoring revealed that from 2012 to 2016, artificially lit outdoor areas increased by 2.2% per year [1], According to a more recent study in 2021, this number could be much greater [2].

Although definitions of light pollution vary, according to CMS Resolution 13.05, "light pollution refers to artificial light that alters the natural patterns of light and dark in ecosystems".

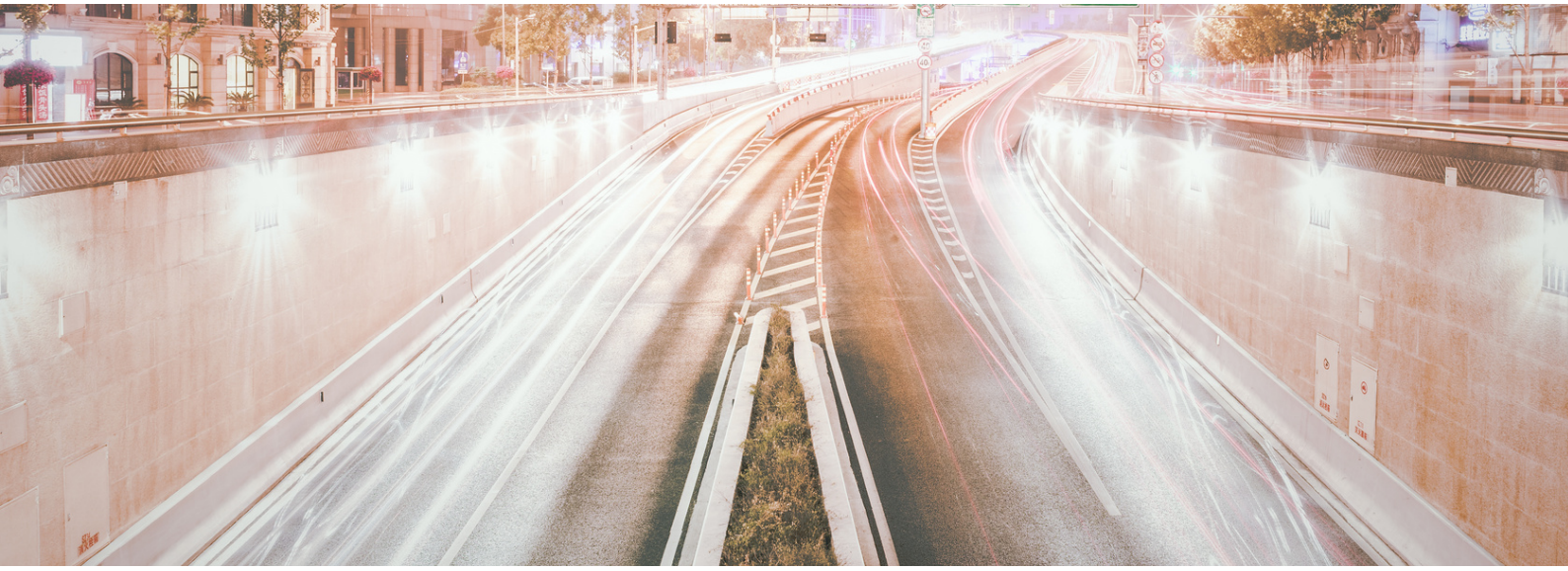
Artificial light is used to illuminate streets, commercial, residential and industrial properties. It is often used for security, while monuments, churches, bridges and other landmarks may be illuminated at night for aesthetic purposes. Today, more than 80% of the world's population lives under a "lit sky", a figure closer to 99% in Europe and North America [3]. The increasing use of lighting has modified the natural environment dramatically, and impacts wild animals, including many species of migratory birds.

[1] Kyba, C.C.M. et al. (2017) Artificially lit surface of Earth at night increasing in radiance and extent. Science Advances. 3(11): e1701528
[2]Alejandro Sánchez de Miguel, Jonathan Bennie, Emma Rosenfeld, Simon Dzurjak, Kevin J. Gaston. First Estimation of Global Trends in Nocturnal Power Emissions Reveals Acceleration of Light Pollution. Remote Sensing, 2021; 13 (16): 3311 DOI: 10.3390/rs13163311
[3] Falchi, F. et al. (2016) The new world atlas of artificial night sky brightness. Science Advances. 2(6): 1600377.

How Does Light Pollution Impact Birds?

Light pollution can alter birds' behaviours, including migration, foraging and vocal communication. It also affects their activity levels and their energy expenditures. Migratory birds are particularly exposed to light pollution, especially those which migrate at night [4]. Light pollution attracts and disorients nocturnally migrating birds, which may end up circling in illuminated areas [5]. This unnatural light-induced behaviour can mean they end up depleting their energy reserves and puts them at risk of exhaustion, predation and lethal collision [6].

Each year, light pollution contributes to the death of millions of birds from collisions with buildings and other built infrastructure. Long distance migrants, such as the blackpoll warbler (Setophaga striata), the Asian stubtail (Urosphena squameiceps) and the oriental plover (Charadrius veredus), may start and end their migrations in areas with relatively low levels of light pollution, but during migration they may fly over areas of intense urban development where they experience high levels of artificial light. Migrating birds can be attracted to lights, particularly when there is low cloud, fog or rain and they are flying at lower altitudes [7].



Guidelines for Addressing Light Pollution

International efforts are underway to reduce the impacts of artificial light on migratory species. At the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13, 2020), the COP adopted Resolution 13.5 “Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife”, calling for the development of new guidelines, including for migratory landbirds. A draft of these guidelines has already been prepared and will be further refined after an expert workshop was held in March 2022. The guidelines will ultimately be presented to CMS Parties for adoption at the next CMS Conference of the Parties (CMS COP14) in 2023. In addition, COP13 already endorsed light pollution guidelines for marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds, which include six simple management principles which can be used to reduce light pollution.

[4] Cabrera-Cruz, S.A. et al. (2018) Light pollution is greatest within migration passage areas for nocturnally-migrating birds around the world. Science Reports. 8: 3261.
[5] Gauthreaux, S.A. and Belser, C.G. (2006) Effects of artificial night light on migrating birds. In C. Rich and T. Longcore, (eds.) Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting. Island Press. Washington, DC. 259 pp.
[6] Rebke, M. et al. (2019) Attraction of nocturnally migrating birds to artificial light: the influence of colour, intensity and blinking mode under different cloud cover conditions. Biological Conservation. 233: 220-227.
La Sorte, F.A. et al. (2017) Seasonal associations with urban light pollution for nocturnally migrating bird populations. Global Change Biology. 23(11): 4609-4619.
[7] Newton, I. (2007) Weather-related mass-mortality events in migrants. Ibis. 149: 435-467.

Goals of the WMBD Campaign in 2022

A key goal of WMBD 2022 is to raise awareness of the issue of light pollution and its negative impacts on migratory birds. The campaign will be used to highlight actions that can be taken by a wider range of actors including individuals to reduce light pollution.

WMBD 2022 also aims to encourage key decision-makers who have a role in addressing light pollution to initiate a process with a view to adopting measures on light pollution, informed by existing guidelines and the new CMS guidelines under development.

A Two-Day Campaign

World Migratory Bird Day is the only international day celebrated on two peak days each year to highlight the global phenomenon of bird migration. Traditionally observed on the second Saturday of May and October, the two days of World Migratory Bird Day are a way to reflect the cyclical nature of bird migration as well as the fact that there are varying peak migration periods in the northern and southern hemispheres. The two-day observance of World Migratory Bird Day also gives more people the chance to celebrate and contemplate migratory birds during peak migration times in different parts of the world.

Peak Day: 14 May

The first phase of the campaign in May 2022 will focus on raising awareness of the issue of light pollution and its negative impact on migratory birds. Awareness-raising activities and events planned around the world to mark World Migratory Bird Day will be encouraged to

1) highlight the issue of light pollution and its negative effects on migratory birds and

2) highlight the work of CMS and others on the topic of light pollution, including the existing and new CMS light pollution guidelines as well as successful efforts to address the issue around the world.

Peak Day: 8 October

The second phase of the campaign in October 2022 will build on the campaign in May and promote best practices in addressing light pollution. It will provide an opportunity for decision-makers to announce plans to undertake a process to address light pollution, taking into account the CMS guidelines and other successful efforts.
Events around the world to mark World Migratory Bird Day will be encouraged to

1) highlight the development of the new guidelines, as well as best-practices to address light pollution already in place,

2) promote conversations and initiate processes towards the goal of widespread use of the guidelines and other relevant best practices on reducing the impact of light pollution.

WMBD 2022 Key Messages

Light pollution is increasing globally. The amount of artificial light on the earth's surface is increasing by at least 2 percent each year and could be much greater.

Each year, light pollution contributes to the death of millions of birds from collisions. Excessive artificial light at night can disorient birds during their migration, leading to fatal collisions with illuminated buildings, communication towers, and other brightly lit structures.

Light pollution can cause other adverse effects on migratory birds. It can alter birds' behaviours, including migration, foraging and vocal communication. It affects their activity levels and energy expenditure and causes disorientation when they fly at night. Artificial light at night can impact the timing of migration and other seasonal behaviours influenced by the disruption of birds' biological clocks. Migration routes can be affected by artificial light at night through birds being attracted to light, or conversely through aversion.

An enormous diversity of birds, active both nocturnally and diurnally, experience impacts of light pollution. Many nocturnally migrating birds such as ducks, geese, plovers, sandpipers and songbirds of all kinds are affected by light pollution. Seabirds such as petrels and shearwaters commonly get drawn into hazardous situations on land and on ships by artificial light sources.

Solutions to address impacts of light pollution are readily available. Numerous governments, cities, companies and communities around the world are already taking steps to address light pollution.

Internationally agreed guidelines on light pollution covering marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds already exist and have been endorsed by the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). These include six simple management principles which can be used to reduce light pollution.

New international guidelines focusing on migratory landbirds and bats are currently being developed under CMS. The new guidelines will be presented to CMS Parties for adoption at the 14th Conference of the Parties to CMS in 2023.

Natural darkness has conservation value in the same way as clean water, air and soil, and should be protected.

How to Get Involved

Help Spread the Word!

Take action and support policies that will help to reduce the impact of light pollution on migratory birds. Support the campaign by promoting the use of internationally agreed guidance on the topic of light pollution within your government, city or institution. Please contact the WMBD partners if needed.

Help promote the campaign. Please help spread the word about World Migratory Bird Day by announcing it on your own website, newsletters and via your social media channels. Share information about World Migratory Bird Day and this year's theme to your contacts and networks. Use your networks and channels to tell others about light pollution and how it affects migratory birds. Please use the resources on our **website** and in our **social media pack** for this purpose. And whenever you do, please make sure to use the main hashtags: **#WorldMigratoryBirdDay** and **#WMBD2022** and **#DimLightsForBirds**

Send in a statement. As every year, we would be delighted to receive statements to mark World Migratory Bird Day 2022. These could either be short (1–2 minute) video messages or written statements (maximum of 800 words) which we will be adding to the World Migratory Bird Day website. Please send your statements to: contact@worldmigratorybirdday.org by 8 May 2022 for us to be able to add them to the website.

Engage with local, regional and national institutions on the topic of light pollution. Reach out to your local municipality, regional or national government and let them know about World Migratory Bird Day 2022. Tell them about the theme of WMBD and about the CMS Light Pollution Guidance being developed. Use WMBD to encourage key actors and groups to adopt and implement them once they are adopted.

Organize or Join an Event!

Every Word Migratory Bird Day event is unique and as diverse and creative as the people and organizations involved. United by a common theme and campaign, World Migratory Bird Day events take place in all corners of the world and involve and inspire thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds. While events are usually organized on one of the two peak days of World Migratory Bird Day, events can be linked to World Migratory Bird Day throughout the year.

There are really no limits on creativity! A successful World Migratory Bird Day event often gets people outside, engages them in learning about birds and habitats, and equips them to take conservation action. WMBD events usually promote the conservation theme, contribute to raising awareness or encourage people to take action. Past activities and awareness-raising events have included bird-watching tours, educational workshops and exhibitions, webinars, festivals, and painting competitions, which have been organized at schools, parks, town halls, education centers, and nature reserves. This year's events could highlight the impact of light pollution by including night-time bird walks and other evening programs focusing on nocturnal bird migration as well as citizen science projects and other dark-sky-themed activities.

World Migratory Bird Day can also be used as an occasion to highlight any actions already being taken to address the issue of light pollution within your government, city or community. These actions could be changes in policy or a concrete future commitment which could be announced.

Visit the website to **be inspired by past events** and once you know what you want to do – please make sure to **register your activity** so that it can appear on the global World Migratory Bird Day event map.

CONTACT

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