

What You Can Do:

Follow the recommendations of the Safe Passage Great Lakes Program from mid-March thru May and mid-August thru October:

- *Turn off all lights at night on unoccupied floors and in unused spaces.*
- *Tenants can keep light "inside" by using task lights instead of ceiling lights and by closing curtains and window shades.*
- *Turn off all exterior illumination from midnight to dawn.*

These three easy steps will not only help birds and the environment, but also significantly save energy, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and lower building costs. In New York City, a 2.5-million square foot building reduced its electricity bills by \$120,000 after going "lights out" during just one bird migration season.

Most importantly, it's the right thing to do. The birds pictured in this brochure, and the other migratory species which pass through Michigan, are true wonders of nature. Twice a year, they set off on "Incredible Journeys" which can cover thousands of miles, navigating by instinct alone. We all have a responsibility to help preserve these marvelous inhabitants of our natural world.

Continuing promotion of Safe Passage Great Lakes is a joint effort of the Detroit Audubon Society and Michigan Audubon. To learn more, please visit our Websites: www.detroitaudubon.org and www.michiganaudubon.org.



Michigan's Governor Jeniffer Granholm endorsed Safe Passage Great Lakes on a state-wide basis. The inaugural "Honor Role" of participants includes more than 20 companies, governmental bodies and organizations throughout Michigan, which have pledged to make their buildings "bird-friendly" at night during the spring and autumn migration periods.

Special assistance with the program has been furnished by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Metropolitan Detroit, which encourages its members to follow the Safe Passage guidelines in their buildings.

This brochure was printed by GM and DTE Energy in support of Safe Passage Great Lakes.



DTE Energy



Photos courtesy of:

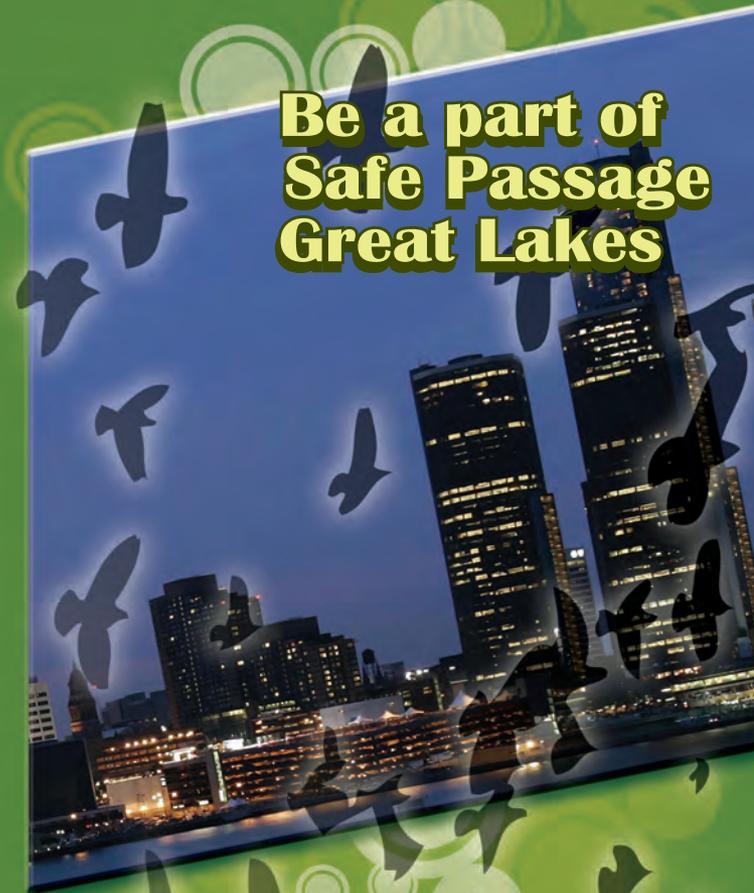
Rosemarie Attilio
Darlene Friedman
Jan Palland • Bill Powers
New York City Audubon
and

John Greilick, The Detroit News
(Detroit night sky)

Designed and edited by:

Angela Ambühl Design, 154 W. Rutgers Ave, Pontiac, Michigan 48340.
ambuhla@yahoo.com

Be a part of Safe Passage Great Lakes



MIGRATING BIRDS NEED "SAFE PASSAGE"

The lights on tall buildings and other structures are a major cause of nighttime collisions which kill millions of migrating birds each year.

There is a solution
**TURN OFF THE LIGHTS DURING
MIGRATION SEASON.**

Save Money. Save Energy. Save Birds.

The Problem

Portions of two major routes of bird migration in North America—the Atlantic and the Mississippi Flyways—pass directly through Michigan. The development of large urban areas has created many hazards to migrating birds using the Flyways.

One of these hazards is the danger of nighttime collisions with buildings and other tall structures located on migration routes. Exterior building lighting and lights shining through windows make matters worse by disrupting the birds' navigation systems. Like moths around a candle, disoriented birds will continuously circle a lighted building, especially in conditions of rain, fog or low cloud cover. Birds are killed when they hit windows or other parts of structures or succumb to exhaustion. Bird biologists estimate that these fatalities can strike up to 100 million nighttime migrant each year in North America.



The Solution

Reducing building lighting during migration seasons can drastically reduce the hazard of building collisions. For example, research in Chicago has shown that reducing the lighting of just one major building during peak migration times saved over 8,000 birds annually, decreasing the number of dead birds found around the building by 80 percent.

In 2006, the Detroit Audubon Society initiated Safe Passage Great Lakes. This program encourages building owners and occupants to turn off lights above the fifth floor, and take other simple steps during the peak migration seasons of mid-March through May and mid-August through October to reduce the danger as migrants pass through. Major cities in our region including Chicago and Toronto, as well as New York City, have started similar programs with demonstrated records of success.

The Impact

Many migratory bird species are already threatened or endangered as a result of pollution, climate change, and loss of habitat. The further loss of millions of birds through building collisions heightens an already critical threat to many species.

The loss of migratory birds significantly harms the environment. Birds are an important natural control of insect pests that threaten crops and forests. Birds help to pollinate beneficial native plants and spread their seeds. The decline in the number of birds threatens bio-diversity and our enjoyment of nature as well.

Bird watching has become an increasingly popular pastime, providing great economic benefits and increased tourism to local communities.

