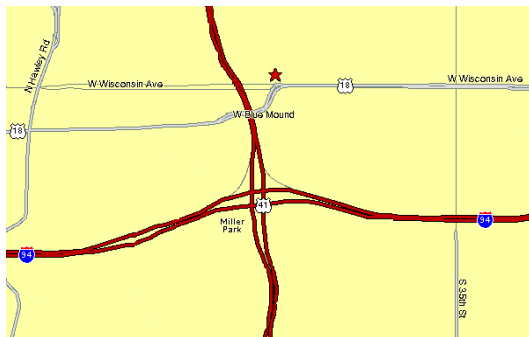


WiNGS Birdstrike Mortality Study in Downtown Milwaukee, Spring 2005

Thank you for agreeing to help monitor avian bird mortality. The purpose of this study is to collect evidence regarding the location and scope of bird deaths caused by striking buildings during migration periods in Milwaukee. We hope to use this information to implement a "lights out" program in which downtown buildings would be encouraged to turn off or dim their lights during peak migration times.

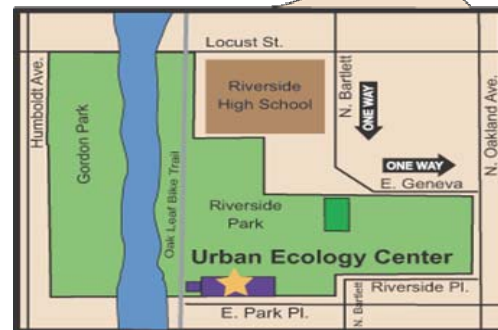
Background - It has long been established that certain buildings along Lake Michigan can contribute to the death of migrating birds. Birds migrating across Lake Michigan at night are attracted to lit buildings and large numbers can be killed or injured in collisions. The City of Chicago implemented a Lights Out program in the late 1990s in which buildings along the lakefront voluntarily dimmed or turned off their lights at night during peak migration months. It has been estimated that this action has reduced bird mortality by almost 80% and saves 10,000 birds annually. The City of Milwaukee also sees its share of bird injuries and deaths due to collisions with buildings. Collecting these dead and injured birds and recording their occurrence will provide information to implement a Lights Out program in Milwaukee.

Instructions - You are to travel a set route and record and collect dead and injured birds you find. Place dead birds into a ziplock bag and record the required information on the data slips you have been provided with. You may place all the birds from a particular site into one bag, but use a different bag for each location. Place the data slip in the bag with the bird(s). Instructions for collecting injured birds are on the other side of this sheet. Upon completion of your route, transport the birds to either the Wisconsin Humane Society (injured birds and dead birds) or the Urban Ecology Center (only dead birds) –



Wisconsin Humane Society (map above)
4500 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53208-3156
414-ANIMALS (414-264-6257)

Urban Ecology Center (map to the right)
Riverside Park
1500 E. Park Pl.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414-964-8505



Note

- Be safe! Be aware of traffic and carry a cell phone with you if possible. Wear rubber gloves or invert the ziplock bag over your hand when picking up dead birds.
- You will need to begin your route **early** in the morning - other scavengers are competing with you to get the carcasses!
- We have notified DNR wardens and the US Fish and Wildlife Service about these activities. You should transfer your collected birds to one of the two sites listed above upon completion of your route. Should something occur that prevents this transfer, refrigerate or freeze the dead birds and make arrangements to get them transferred within 24 hours.
- Contact Scott Diehl, Wisconsin Humane Society Wildlife Manager, at 431-6117 with any questions.