



Would you like to help with a new migratory bird study and conservation effort in the Cincinnati region?

Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Ohio. Many birds migrate at night, and lights on tall buildings or aimed at the sky can disorient them and draw them into the city. This causes many birds to strike windows or circle until they fall from exhaustion. Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Nature Center, and Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden are collaborating to study and reduce this phenomenon in our region as part of the national Audubon Lights Out project.

We need volunteers to help us monitor downtown Cincinnati during migration season! Most volunteers will walk set routes in downtown Cincinnati in pairs to look for injured or deceased birds. Injured birds will be rescued and transferred to rehabilitators for care, and deceased birds will be collected for study. Volunteers will receive training and supplies, all you need is transportation to the rendezvous point in downtown Cincinnati. Spring monitoring will take place April through May.

Unable or uninterested in doing a walking route? We also need a few volunteers for data entry and specimen preparation at the Cincinnati Museum Center, and rehabilitators who are caring for injured birds may also be looking for helpers.

What can I expect on my monitoring shift?

For Spring 2018, we will be monitoring April-May, on Tues, Thurs, and Sun mornings. You may monitor as often or as little as you wish. You'll arrive at the rendezvous point near Smale Riverfront Park on the morning of your shift, around 6am. You'll meet your partner and be given your supplies and a route map. You and your partner will walk your route, safely collecting any dead or injured birds you find. Injured birds will be turned over to licensed rehabilitators. Routes will be walked twice each morning if time allows – the routes are between 1 and 2 miles in length. At the end of your shift around 8:30am, you will return to the rendezvous point, turn in your birds and supplies, and enjoy the rest of the day knowing you made a difference for migratory birds!



Photo: Kevin Bolton

Why is it important to collect these birds?

Deceased birds offer a chance for us to learn the “who, what, when, where” of migratory bird window strikes in Cincinnati, so strikes can be reduced in the future. Birds that are injured or exhausted may be too stressed in the city environment to recover, or they may be swept up and disposed of by cleaners while still alive, and they are easy prey for cats. By turning them over to licensed bird rehabilitators they have a chance for survival and release back to the wild. In Cleveland, hundreds of injured birds rescued by volunteers have been rehabilitated and released!

Where do I sign up? If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact the Lights Out Cincinnati volunteer coordinators at lightsoutcincy@gmail.com. Let us know what type of work you are interested in, if you have a current volunteer affiliation (Cincinnati Nature Center, Museum Center, Zoo, etc), and how you would prefer to be contacted. Thank you very much!