

PROCLAMATION

LIGHTS OUT FOR BIRDS DURING PEAK MIGRATION

AUGUST 15-NOVEMBER 15, 2025

WHEREAS, each fall, approximately 8 million birds representing more than 250 species migrate through Oak Park and the greater Chicago region on their journey to wintering grounds; and

WHEREAS, artificial light pollution disorients migratory birds, increasing the risks of exhaustion, predation, and collisions with buildings and other structures; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, Chicago's tall buildings in the Loop have participated in the National Audubon Society's Lights Out program—the first of its kind in the nation—saving an estimated 10,000 birds each year and serving as a national model for bird-friendly practices; and

WHEREAS, Oak Park residents are urged to turn off unnecessary lights and close drapes and blinds after 11:00 p.m. during the fall migration season, now through November 15, 2025, to help ensure safe passage for these birds; and

WHEREAS, reducing light pollution year-round—by turning off unnecessary lights, shielding outdoor fixtures, and directing light only where it is needed—not only protects migratory birds but also improves community safety by reducing glare, conserves energy, and lowers maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park continues its efforts to reduce light pollution by installing dark-sky compliant fixtures in street and alley lighting upgrades, contributing to both environmental sustainability and public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim **Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration** in the Village of Oak Park, and encourage all residents to join in protecting migratory birds during this critical season.

DATED this 16th day of September, 2025.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk