



Proclamation No. 22-0458

DECLARING APRIL 2022 AS LIGHTS OUT FOR BIRD MIGRATION MONTH IN DENVER

WHEREAS: birds are widespread in the City of Denver - from LODO to Rosedale, the South Platte to the Cherry Creek - their plumage and songs are a constant reminder of hope and beauty; and

WHEREAS: spring and fall, birds fly by the billions through storms, forests, farms, and cities to hatch nestlings in the safety of grasslands and mountain lakes. In North America, 80 percent of the birds that migrate do so during the night, using the stars and moon to guide their way; and

WHEREAS: Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* reaches its 60th anniversary, and her legacy has helped to protect Denver's 300 bird species, including Bald Eagles who dazzle visitors at City Park and the Lark Buntings who greet recent arrivals in the grasslands around Denver's International Airport; and

WHEREAS: each May, millions of birds migrate through Denver, nest in our parks, and serenade our morning walks. By day, birds like the American Avocet wade through the shoreline of Barnum Lake, and by moonlight, the Nightjar hunts insects overhead Denverites as they walk the downtown streets; and

WHEREAS: migrating birds are accustomed to dark nights, the artificial lights of suburbia and downtown Denver attract birds to windows and walls, leaving them dead, wounded, or trapped in a maze of invisible glass; and

WHEREAS: birds spread seeds of hawthornes that encircle the big blue bear of the Convention Center, pollinate the scarlett gilia that energize the red eyes of Blucifer, and bring nutrients to the flower beds of Denver Botanic Gardens. These ecosystem services make Denver hospitable, safe, and diverse; and

WHEREAS: Denverites wish they could see the stars like they can in the mountains and bring the majesty of our high elevation sky back into the city limits; and

WHEREAS: light pollution worsens as Denver grows, people and other species of animals are negatively impacted by bright night lights; and

WHEREAS: the *Lights Out Denver* program is voluntary and encourages businesses and community members to turn off all non-essential exterior lights to reduce light pollution so as to provide safer, natural migration routes for birds;"

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver acknowledges the importance of a healthy bird population to our natural ecological balance and declares April 2022 Lights Out for Bird Migration Month in Denver.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and a copy be transmitted to The Audubon Society of Denver.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL April 25, 2022

PRESIDENT