

This fall, TCA's *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* team concluded its fourth season of bird collision surveys in downtown Fort Worth. As we reflect on the season's efforts, we are excited to share preliminary highlights and prepare for the continued success of this vital initiative.

Collision Survey Results

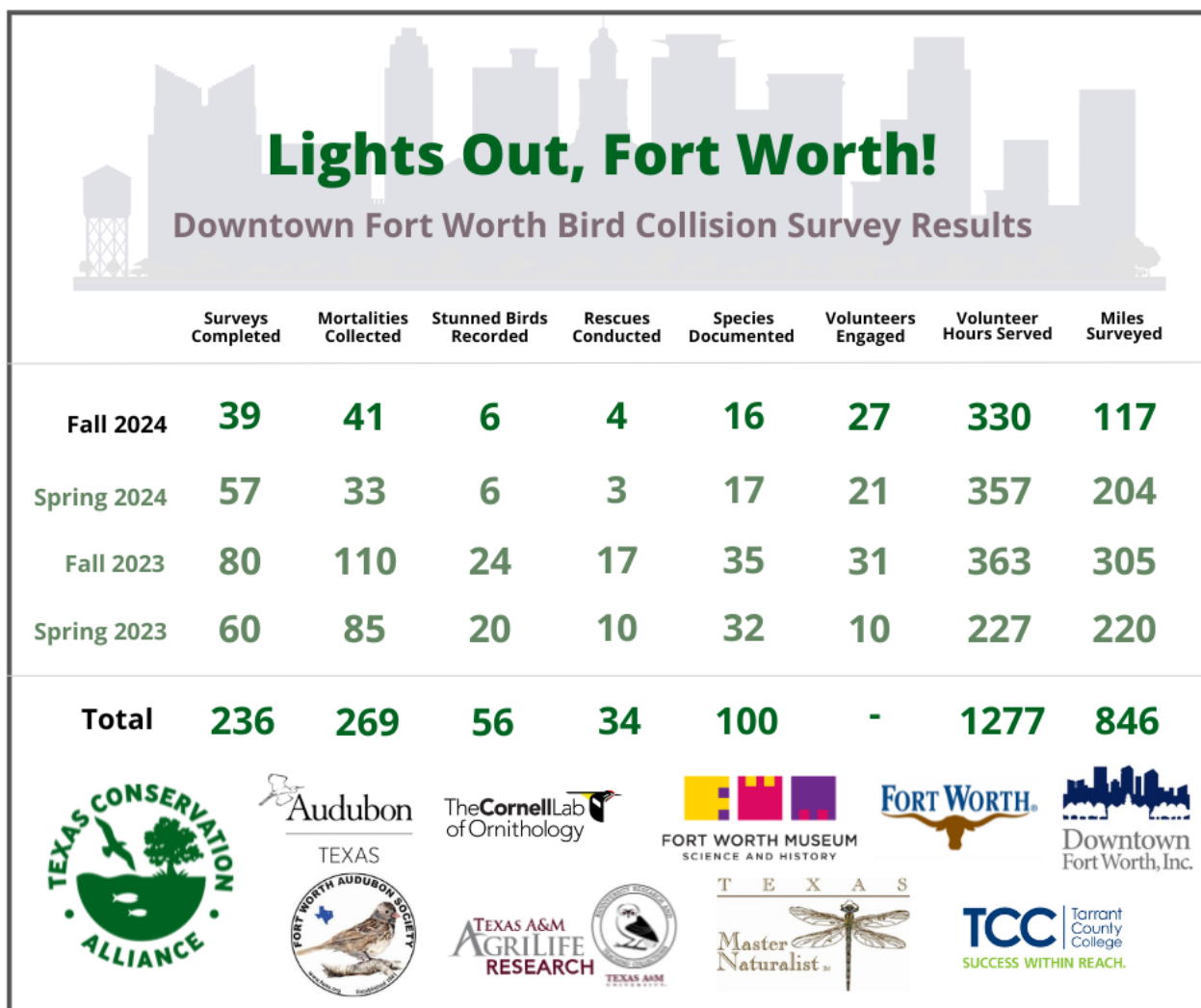


Figure 1. *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* Downtown Fort Worth Bird Collision Survey Results

Fall 2024 marked our 4th season documenting bird—building collisions in downtown Fort Worth. This season, a total of 51 bird—building collisions were documented, including 41 mortalities, 4 rescued birds, and 6 stunned birds that hit windows and flew away.

This fall, the *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* team surveyed 3 days a week for the majority of the season, with surveys conducted 4 days a week during the peak migration period from October 16th to November 16th.

Bird-Building Collision Species Found (Fall 2024)

Lights Out, Fort Worth!

Bird—Building Collision Species Found (Fall 2024)

Treecreeper

Brown Creeper

Doves

White-winged Dove
Mourning Dove

Wrens

House Wren
Bewick's Wren

Finches

House Finch

New World Sparrows

Clay-colored Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Field Sparrow

Mockingbirds

Northern Mockingbird

Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

New World Warblers

Black-and-white Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Nashville Warbler

Woodpeckers

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Kinglets

Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Figure 2. *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* Bird—Building Collision Species Found, Fall 2024.

This season, 51 bird—building collisions were recorded, representing 18 unique species across 10 families. These findings highlight the ongoing impact of light pollution on bird migration and emphasize the importance of our conservation work. The final report will provide a comprehensive overview of the collision monitoring results and species diversity.

Bird—Building Collisions by Family & Week in Fall 2024

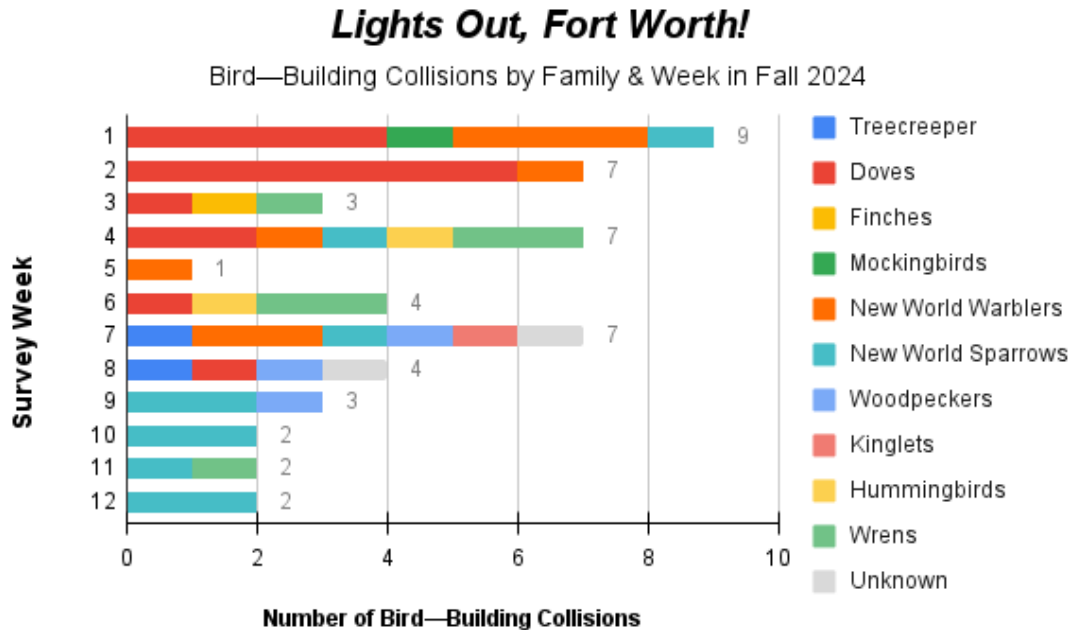


Figure 3: *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* Bird—Building Collisions by Family & Week in Fall 2024.

This fall, *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* documented bird—building collisions encompassing 18 unique species across 10 families during the migration season.

Notable highlights include:

- New World Sparrows (Family Passerellidae): This family exhibited the highest diversity, with six species observed, including Clay-colored Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.
- New World Warblers (Family Parulidae): Migratory species like Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Nashville Warbler were prominent among collisions, reflecting their seasonal migration through Texas.
- Doves (Family Columbidae): White-winged Dove and Mourning Dove made up a significant proportion of the non-migratory species recorded this season.

- Resident Species: Other non-migratory birds included the Northern Mockingbird (Family Mimidae) and House Finch (Family Fringillidae), which are commonly found year-round.
- Special Mentions: The Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Family Trochilidae) and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Family Picidae) were among the less frequently observed species but added to the diversity of affected families.

Migratory species accounted for the majority of collisions, highlighting the vulnerability of these birds during their long journeys. This data underscores the importance of continued efforts to mitigate light pollution and encourage bird-safe building practices to create safer migratory pathways through urban areas.

Evolution of Bird Collision Patterns in Downtown Fort Worth

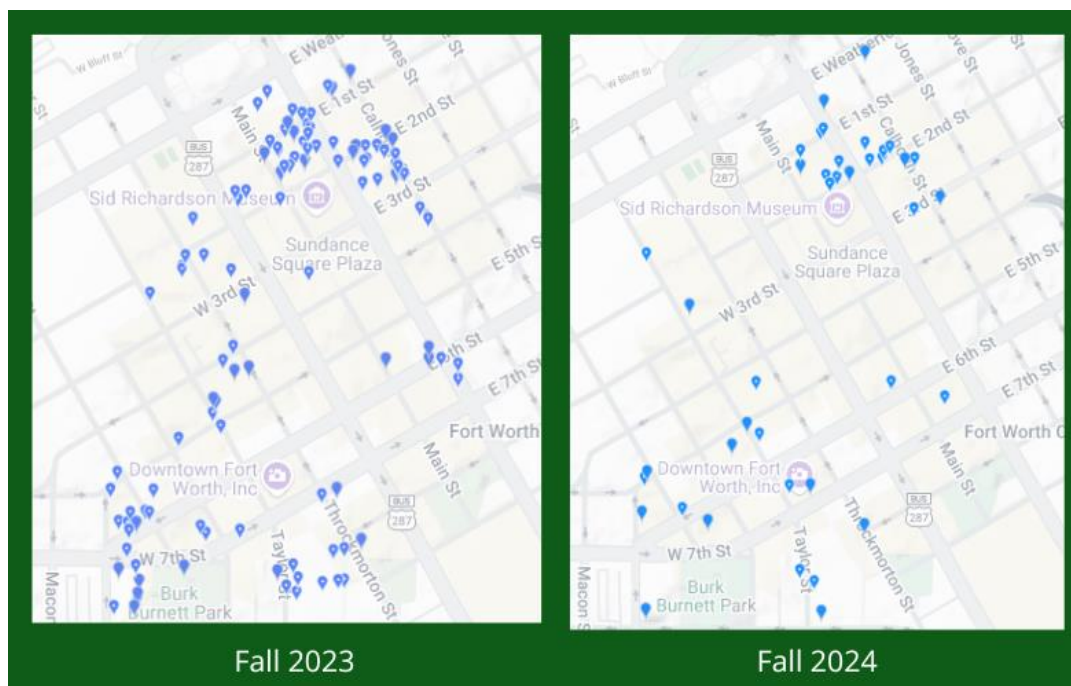


Figure 4. Analysis of Bird Collision Patterns: Fall 2023 vs. Fall 2024

Over the course of the *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* initiative, the distribution of bird collisions has shown significant trends across the downtown area. A comparative analysis between Fall 2023 and Fall 2024 collision data reveals similar clustering

patterns, emphasizing the persistent risk areas and the continued importance of conservation efforts in mitigating bird—building collisions.

The clustering patterns often center around buildings with extensive glass facades. Glass poses a unique and significant hazard to birds because it is both reflective and transparent. During the day, glass reflects the surrounding sky and vegetation, creating an illusion of open space that birds attempt to fly into. At night, interior lighting in glass-heavy buildings can attract and disorient migrating birds, leading to fatal collisions.

These patterns highlight the critical need to retrofit high-risk buildings with bird-friendly solutions, such as applying window treatments, implementing architectural modifications, or adopting *Lights Out!* initiatives during migration periods.

A Season of Shared Sightings: Overlapping Bird Species Across Fort Worth, College Station, and Dallas



Figure 5. These overlapping bird species were observed in Fort Worth, College Station, and Dallas during Fall 2024.

This migration season, data collected from Fort Worth, College Station, and Dallas revealed a significant overlap in bird species observed across all three locations. The presence of these birds in Fort Worth, College Station, and Dallas is no coincidence. This finding highlights Texas' critical position within major migratory flyways, serving as a vital passage for numerous avian species during their seasonal movements.

The overlapping species observed include the Yellow Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and the resident White-winged Dove, along with sparrow species such as the Clay-colored Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Lincoln's sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow. Additionally, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and House Wren were seen across all three cities, underscoring the shared ecological importance of these urban and suburban areas. As they move along these flyways, birds rely on urban areas as stopover sites to rest and refuel, making conservation efforts in these regions particularly critical.

Increased Public Awareness

This fall, Lights Out, Fort Worth! has made significant strides in raising awareness about bird conservation through impactful community outreach and media engagement.

A highlight of the season was our participation in local events, including Nature Fest hosted by the Prairie Oaks Master Naturalists. Visitors engaged with our educational materials, learning practical steps to support migrating birds and contributing to the Lights Out initiative.

Our efforts gained further momentum through increased visibility in local media. Outlets like NBC-5 DFW and the Fort Worth Report featured stories highlighting how individuals and organizations can join the movement to protect migrating birds. These features inspired new volunteers and strengthened community support for our mission.



Figure 6. Connecting with the community to share how we can all help protect migratory birds through *Lights Out!* Initiatives.

Engaging TCU and Promoting dBird.org

The Lights Out campaign has gained recognition across universities, with many reaching out for guidance on conducting bird collision surveys and raising awareness. This season, the Fort Worth team partnered with Texas Christian University (TCU) to pilot a campus-wide project and develop guidelines for universities. This initiative introduced the *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* campaign to TCU faculty and students through community engagement activities while also promoting the use of dBird, a tool that allows individuals to record bird collisions whenever and wherever they are discovered.

By encouraging the use of dBird, we aim to empower the TCU community—and others—to contribute valuable data that helps researchers and conservationists better understand and mitigate bird collisions.

TCU's participation has been instrumental in raising awareness about urban wildlife conservation, and we're excited to continue fostering this partnership in the future. In 2025, we plan to promote these university-specific guidelines to other campuses interested in conducting bird collision surveys and adopting bird-friendly practices.



DBIRD.ORG

[Report](#) [About](#) [Explore Data](#)

Report a dead or injured bird in under 2 minutes: dBird provides a way to report incidents of dead and injured birds, helping to contextualize and guide conservation and advocacy efforts that aim to reduce human-caused hazards to birds.

- Please enter the bird's information to the best of your ability below.
- Submit a separate report for each bird.
- Injured birds should be taken to a licensed rehabilitation center, dead birds should be disposed of to avoid reporting the same bird again later.

Figure 7. Fall 2024 Lights Out, Fort Worth! intern, Elise Skiles, promotes Bird-Collision surveys and dBird at the TCU campus

Lights Out, Fort Worth! Fall 2024 Intern Spotlight: Elise Skiles

"Working with TCA has brought me so much more than just an internship experience. Through working on the *Lights Out, Texas!* campaign, I learned about the importance of conserving both migratory and native wildlife. The 6 a.m. downtown surveys really brought the whole team together, and I was able to form bonds with the staff that aren't possible in an office setting! Overall, I am so grateful to have been given the chance to work with TCA, and I would recommend this position to anyone interested in urban wildlife and sustainability!" -Elise Skiles

Elise has been a vital part of our *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* team this semester, contributing her passion and dedication to making a meaningful impact. We're so thankful for her hard work and enthusiasm!



Figure 8. Meet Elise, our incredible intern helping to spread the *Lights Out!* message in Fort Worth! Here she proudly holds one of our *Lights Out!* yard signs, a small but powerful way to make a big impact on migrating birds. Thank you, Elise, for your dedication and passion for protecting our feathered friends!

Thank You to All of Our Supporters!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the partners who make *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* a success. Your unwavering support forms the backbone of our collaborative efforts, empowering us to connect like-minded individuals and inspire meaningful change within our communities. Since the inception of *Lights Out, Fort Worth!* surveys, your dedication has been instrumental in driving impactful conservation efforts in downtown Fort Worth, neighboring areas, and across Texas.

We are equally grateful to our incredible volunteers who devoted their time to survey efforts this season and to all the supporters advocating for darker, bird-friendly night skies. Together, we are creating safer skies for millions of migrating birds. Your passion and commitment inspire us to continue this vital work, and we eagerly anticipate building on these accomplishments with your continued support.

Thank you for helping us protect our shared skies—your contributions make all the difference. Here's to brighter outcomes and clearer skies for the future!



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS



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