

**STORY : BIRDSAFE**

Air Date: For Immediate Release

Length: 2:37

*Suggested Intro:* THE FALL BIRD MIGRATION JUST RECENTLY ENDED, AND WITH IT THE FALL BIRDSAFE-LIGHTS MONITORING PROGRAM, A PROGRAM CREATED TO MAKE THE TRIP SAFER FOR BIRDS. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE NUMBER OF BIRDS THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT ARE BEING DOCUMENTED. DENNY BEHR HAS MORE OF THE STORY.

*Roll Package*

WHEN YOU LAY THEM OUT ON A TABLE, THE NUMBER OF BIRDS KILLED FROM CRASHING INTO BUILDINGS, IS STAGGERING. WARBLERS AND SPARROWS, CHICKADEES AND RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS

01:04:16tp1 NATS push milkweed plant out of the way

THIS IS THE FIRST FALL THEY'VE BEEN COLLECTED.

01:07:40tp1 LORI "...this is the fourth junco I've found this week..."

LORI NAUMANN, FROM THE DNR'S NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM, IS MONITORING THE OUTSIDE OF THE DNR AND PCA BUILDINGS IN THE TWIN CITIES, FOR INJURED OR DEAD BIRDS. IT'S PART OF THE NATIONAL BIRDSAFE-LIGHTS OUT PROGRAM, DESIGNED TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF BIRDS KILLED DURING MIGRATION. SHE'S ONE OF THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO REGULARLY WALK ROUTES SEARCHING FOR FALLEN BIRDS.

01:11:18tp1 LORI "...this side of the building we tend to find in the early fall migration because these windows here are directly facing north, where the birds are coming from..."

OWNERS OF TALL BUILDINGS IN THE TWIN CITIES WERE ASKED TO TURN THEIR BUILDING LIGHTS OUT AT NIGHT DURING MIGRATION PERIODS. BIRDS ARE OFTEN ATTRACTED TO THE LIGHTS, THEN THEY COLLIDE WITH BUILDINGS. BUT NIGHTTIME COLLISIONS ARE ONLY PART OF THE PROBLEM.

01:34:12tp1 LORI "... most of the birds that hit our building are hitting during the day, because our building isn't tall enough to be, to attract the birds because of light...also, our building does not leave our lights on at night..."

SOME 250 SPECIES OF BIRDS MIGRATE THROUGH THE TWIN CITIES EVERY YEAR. NAUMANN COLLECTED NEARLY THIRTY BIRDS IN A ONE-MONTH PERIOD ALONE THIS FALL.

01:29:32tp1 LORI "...we've got Tennessee Warblers, morning warblers..."

EVENTUALLY, THE BIRDS COME HERE, TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S BELL MUSEUM COLLECTION ROOM. BOB ZINK IS THE BIRD CURATOR FOR THE MUSEUM.

02:18:50tp2 BOB "...what we would like to do is have some understanding of the kinds of birds that we find, the numbers of each individual species and we'd like to do that in a systematic way..."

IN THE PREP LAB AT THE 'U' THIS DAY IS JOANNA ECKLES, CREDITED BY SOME AS BEING THE ONE WHO GOT THE BIRDSAFE/LIGHTS OUT PROGRAM STARTED IN THE TWIN CITIES.

04:13:32tp4 JO "...what we're doing is taking birds that have been dropped off by volunteers that have walked the different routes in either Minneapolis or St. Paul, and we're just physically getting their information entered into one database..."

IN THE END, EVERYONE INVOLVED WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

04:10:45tp4 JO "... make some kind of an impact with building planners and architects so at least the problem is something they know about in planning buildings..."

I'M DENNY BEHR, FOR THE MINNESOTA DNR.

*Suggested tag:* OTHER PARTNERS IN THE BIRDSAFE-LIGHTS OUT PROGRAM INCLUDE AUDUBON MINNESOTA, THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER, AND BIRD CONSERVATION MINNESOTA. THE BIRDSAFE-LIGHTS OUT PROGRAM WILL BE REPEATED IN THE SPRING, AND CONTINUE ANNUALLY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDSAFE-LIGHTS OUT GO TO <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn> AND CLICK ON "LESS LIGHT, MORE BIRDS."