

LIGHTS OUT CONNECTICUT



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



CO-CHAIRS' LETTER

We are so proud of what we accomplished in 2023 while working with local residents, conservation groups, and elected officials from across our state. We helped to pass **Public Act No. 23-143**, the “Lights Out CT Bill,” which provides meaningful protections for birds, local ecosystems, and the night sky in Connecticut. After Gov. Ned Lamont signed the bill into law in June 2023, Connecticut became one of only a handful of states that have taken steps to curb light pollution through legislation and the state building code. With new research showing that light pollution is increasing in the United States by 9.6% annually while our North American migratory bird populations, which are negatively impacted by excessive nighttime lighting, are in decline, we know that solutions are urgently needed, now more than ever.

In 2024, building on our gains, we will increase efforts to raise public awareness about the harms of light pollution while educating property owners and residents about the many safe, simple solutions to minimize excessive nighttime lighting -- and advocate for effective public policy. We hope to expand the scope of our work and our partnerships in 2024 -- because light pollution affects all of us.

MEREDITH BARGES
CRAIG REPASZ

Co-Chairs



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

1) We led a successful campaign to pass Public No. Act 23 - 143, the "Lights Out CT bill." This legislation requires all unnecessary exterior lights to be shut off at state-owned buildings from 11pm to 6am year-around.

2) Through our LOCLL Initiative, we helped foster Lights Out movements in Bridgeport, Greenwich, Guilford, and other towns, led by local residents and conservationists.

3) We joined the Menunkatuck Audubon Society, an organization renowned for its advocacy work, to widen the scope of our efforts to protect migratory birds in Connecticut.

4) We gave over 30 presentations statewide, including 13 public presentations, 10 library presentations, 4 church reflections, 1 Bird Brainiacs Trivia Night, 1 Earth Day Sound Jam, and 1 school presentation.

5) We formed strategic partnerships with Ash Creek Conservation Association, Best Video Film & Cultural Center, Hartford Audubon Society, North Haven Rotary Club, Sierra Club CT, US Fish & Wildlife.

6) We documented excessive lighting at state-owned buildings, to understand the extent of the problem.



unanimously
PASSED BOTH HOUSES!

H.B.6607, THE "LIGHTS OUT CT" BILL, WILL SOON BE LAW OF THE LAND!

saving thousands of migratory birds

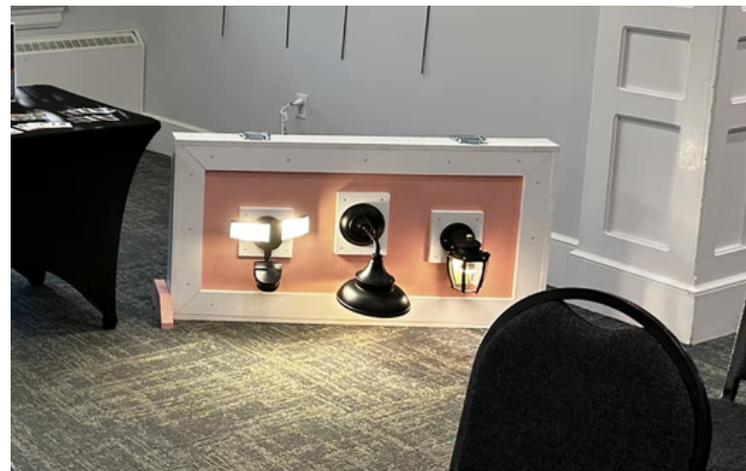
from fatal collisions linked to light pollution.

7) We appeared on The Lisa Wexler Show (107.3 FM) in April – and then on “Slice of Life” on Valley Shore Community Television in June.

8) We built an educational lighting display that demonstrates proper light shielding, motion sensors, and warm-temperature lighting, through a grant from the North Haven Rotary Club. Then we showed it off around the state.

9) We helped the city of New Haven to reapply for its Urban Bird Treaty status through the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

10) We met hundreds of amazing CT residents who care as much about birds and the night sky as we do.



DMV, Waterbury (Joseph Bellemare)

2024 GOALS: LOOKING AHEAD

❖ Pass amendments to the CT State Building Code to tighten rules on maximum lumens and correlated color temperatures for exterior luminaires, and remove unnecessary exemptions to shielding rules.

❖ Push to include lighting upgrades and incentives in Connecticut's 2024 omnibus climate bill.

❖ Publish a model lighting ordinance for CT towns and cities to adopt, with technical expertise from Dark Sky International CT.

❖ Encourage cities like New Haven and towns like Greenwich to adopt a lighting curfew (11pm-6am) for unnecessary lighting at municipal owned buildings.

❖ Host a Lights Out CT Winter Gala -- with live music by the Midnight Warblers -- on February 16th. We hope you there!



Wilson's Warbler (VJAnderson)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Lights Out Connecticut received the bulk of its funding in 2023 from grants awarded from different nonprofit organizations, in addition to the generous support of dozens of individual donors from across CT and New England. Monies were used primarily for public education and outreach efforts and constructing our educational lighting display. Lights Out Connecticut runs entirely on the work of unpaid volunteers. In 2023, grants were received from:

- **Hartford Audubon Society**
- **North Haven Rotary Club**



UConn, Waterbury (Joseph Bellemare)

OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

