

## MIGRATING WARBLERS ARE ATTRACTED TO BRIGHT LIGHTS

A Conservation Note, by Paul Aird

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It is well known that night-migrating birds of some species are attracted to bright lights. They may swirl around the intense light beams in a frenzy, crashing into the lighted structure, into the light face, and into each other.

The largest bird kills tend to occur in autumn during conditions of low cloud, fog, drizzle, or moonless nights. The inexperience of young birds on their first migratory flight may add to the problem.

During the first weekend of September 1981, more than 10,000 birds were killed in Ontario by two floodlit smokestacks 653 feet tall and 33 feet wide at the top (Weir and Aird). Half of the 49 species attracted to their death were warblers.

If the Michigan Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Audubon Society, and others could lobby to turn off the vanity lights on chimneys, towers and tall buildings, or to replace them with red beacons or pulsating strobe lights if needed for aircraft safety, then they would contribute to the conservation of electrical energy, to the conservation of migratory birds and, perhaps, to the conservation of the Kirtland's Warbler.

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Weir, R., and P. Aird. 1981. A dead end for migrating birds. The Globe and Mail, September 25, p.7.