



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

2019 Grant Report to Kirtland Bird Club/Ohio Avian Project Initiative

December 20, 2019

Thank You!

Dear Members of the Kirtland Bird Club and Ohio Avian Project Initiative:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and constituents of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, thank you again for Kirtland Bird Club/Ohio Avian Project Initiative Program's grant of \$1,000 to support the project *Conserving Avian Species Through Lights Out Cleveland's Wildlife Rehabilitation Efforts*. We are pleased to present the narrative and financial report on this project following the completion of the project's grant funding.

The Lights Out Cleveland initiative seeks to protect migratory birds from the impacts of light pollution. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has played a critical role in this important bird conservation endeavor by leading the monitoring efforts and treating injured birds through our expert wildlife rehabilitation program.

As the only wildlife rehabilitation facility in Cuyahoga County with permits from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services and the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Center's involvement has been a crucial component to reducing avian mortality during spring and fall migration through the Lake Erie flyway. Additionally, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is one of only 12 wildlife rehabilitation facilities with a permit to treat endangered species in Ohio, thus serving a critical role in assisting birds that are listed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as endangered, threatened, species of concern or species of special interest.

Since joining the project in 2017, Center staff and Lights Out Cleveland volunteers have collected birds during fall and spring migration at the rate of about 3,000 per year, of which around one-third are still alive when brought to the Center. Were it not for Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's rehabilitation efforts, nearly 1,000 birds per year would not make it out of Cleveland alive.



Thanks to the support of Kirtland Bird Club Ohio/Avian Project Initiative Program, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has made significant progress in achieving our 2019 project objective:

Project Goal: Rehabilitate & Release

Provide medical aid to migratory birds injured by window strikes in Cleveland with the goal of rehabilitation and release back to the wild.

Project Outcomes:

- See the attached “2019 Bird Collection & Rehabilitation Data” for the total number of birds impacted during this grant cycle.
- See the attached “Bird Conservation Report” to review the number and type of species of live birds admitted, rehabilitated, banded and released by Lake Erie Nature & Science Center through Lights Out Cleveland during the current grant period, as well as in previous years.

Project Impact Summary:

- 3,249 total birds were collected during the spring and fall migration period of March 2019 – November 2019.
- 2,330 (about 70% of birds collected) were deceased and donated to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s ornithology collection for research.
- 919 (about 30% of the birds collected) were ill or injured and transported to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center for treatment with the ultimate goal of release back to the wild.
- 880 of the 919 live birds treated were released back to the wild in 2019, resulting in a 96% release rate, the most exceptional Lights Out Cleveland rehabilitation outcome we have yet achieved.
- For this grant project we treated and released 74 species of birds, including 1 bird on Ohio’s endangered species list, an American Bittern, which is the first endangered bird we rehabilitated and released through Lights Out Cleveland. We also treated and released 14 birds that are Ohio’s Listed Species (Eastern Whip-poor-will, Grasshopper Sparrow, Least Bittern, Marsh Wren, and Virginia Rail).
- Of the remaining birds that could not be rehabilitated, 30 were euthanized, 5 were transferred for permanent residence to another facility where they got a second chance at life as educational ambassadors, and 4 died in treatment.



2019 Project Budget Report:

Grant funds were utilized to offset expenses for staff and materials that incurred while the Center served as the lead avian rehabilitator in the 2019 Lights Out Cleveland initiative. Specifically, \$750 was spent on downtown survey and rescue supplies, including nets, bags, tagging materials, safety equipment, and outerwear to identify staff. The remaining \$250 in grant funds was applied to salaries for wildlife rehabilitation staff which compensated for the increase in staff work load with Lights Out Cleveland patients during peak migration.

| Project: <i>Conserving Avian Species Through Lights Out Cleveland's Wildlife Rehabilitation Efforts</i> | Total for Project¹ | Amount Requested² |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Equipment | | |
| Materials and supplies | 24,148 | 750 |
| Travel ³ | 360 | |
| Living Expenses ⁴ | | |
| Salaries ⁵ | 76,484 | 250 |
| Shipping & Postage | | |
| Printing & Copying | | |
| Other (please specify) | 222,835 | |
| Total⁶ | \$323,827 | \$1,000 |

Conclusion:

The Kirtland Bird Club Ohio/Avian Project Initiative Program's support of *Conserving Avian Species Through Lights Out Cleveland's Wildlife Rehabilitation Efforts* is making a direct and meaningful impact in the rehabilitation, release and conservation of migratory birds in the Cleveland community and beyond. With your assistance during the 2019 spring and fall avian migration periods, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's expert wildlife rehabilitation staff saved the lives of 880 migratory birds, developed and shared innovative avian treatment protocols with rehabilitators throughout the country, contributed to important national research on avian conservation, and furthered community awareness about mitigating the impact of urban light on migrating birds.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,



Catherine Timko
Executive Director

Enclosures:

2019 Bird Collection & Rehabilitation Data
Bird Species Conservation Report