

# Lights Out Northeast Florida Documentary

## UNF Environmental Center Leadership Program – SOARS 2021

### What is Lights Out Northeast Florida?

- Lights Out Northeast Florida is a program that aims to push building and household owners in Jacksonville, Florida to turn their lights off between 11 P.M. and 5 A.M. during the two bird migratory seasons each year (Spring and Fall).
- Nocturnally migrating birds use the moon and stars to navigate from one place to another.
- Artificial light, mainly prominent in inner-city areas with large skyscrapers, attracts migrating birds, causing them to fly into these deadly areas. At night, it is very difficult for birds to see their surroundings, so birds caught in the inner-city often fly into artificially lit buildings, resulting in fatal consequences.

**Each year, about one billion birds die from either colliding into artificially lit buildings or from exhaustion.**



### Project Overview

- The objective of this project was to create a documentary film to:
  - Educate viewers about the effect of artificial light on nocturnally migrating birds
  - Create awareness of the negative consequences of artificial light
  - Garner support for Lights Out Northeast Florida
- The documentary film contains audio commentary over various image and video sequences exhibiting artificial light sources and bird migration patterns. This commentary is meant to educate and create awareness in viewers about the dangers of artificial light with respect to bird migration.
- Placed throughout the documentary is footage of interviews with:
  - Tony Vecchio: Executive Director at JZG
  - Mike Taylor: Curator of birds at JZG
  - Lucas Meers: Conservation Program Officer at JZG
  - Carol Bailey-White: President of Duval Audubon Society



**Lights Out**  
NORTHEAST FLORIDA

### Video-Making Process and Tasks

- One of the focuses of Lights Out Northeast Florida is to gain volunteer support from the public to travel around the downtown area of Jacksonville to gather any birds that have been fatally wounded from striking artificially lit buildings at night.
- In addition to my documentary, I volunteered with Lights Out Northeast Florida to conduct searches for these deceased birds to help provide data about the number of problems birds face when nocturnally migrating.
- The main process of creating this documentary was to:
  - Create a script outlining the negative effects of artificial light and how Lights Out Northeast Florida will help migrating birds
  - Record the audio for the script and record footage of various artificial lights in Jacksonville
  - Edit the video using Abode Premiere Pro



*It's time that every city, especially those along the migratory pathway, get involved with this program. – Tony Vecchio*