

Dr. James L. Hurley
Tarleton State University
1333 W Washington St.
Stephenville, TX 76402

Dear President Hurley,

The Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society strongly encourages you to implement light pollution reducing policies on the Tarleton State University campuses. Light pollution is caused by the inefficient or unnecessary use of artificial light and causes a significant disturbance in the migratory patterns and other biological rhythms of birds and other ecologically important species (TWS 2016, 2018, 2019).

Here on the Stephenville campus the Memorial Stadium lights can be seen for miles; and while we are proud of our university and want to boast our grandeur, we believe that conserving energy and protecting migratory species should be a top priority. As Tarleton Texans, we strive to achieve and maintain six core values: tradition, integrity, civility, leadership, excellence and service. It is our belief that in order to uphold these values, we must apply them to every aspect of our community.

Tradition: while we here at Tarleton pride ourselves on our traditions, migration is a long-standing tradition for many bird species. Of the 615 avian species documented in Texas, 54% of them are migratory (TPWD 2005). Including several species of waterfowl, Hey Oscar P!

Integrity: if we are truly holding each other to a high standard of morality, shouldn't we speak and care for those who cannot do so for themselves? It is our responsibility as Texans to care for the wild animals that call our great state home.

Civility: in the words of Earl Rudder himself, "We don't always agree, but we do try to find the best solutions". We believe that as a community we can agree that it is important to conserve our natural world for future generations.

Leadership: as Tarleton Texans, we are becoming community, state, and national leaders. We have a unique position here in Stephenville, and Texas as a whole, to be the example of what it means to be ecologically conscious.

Excellence: the reach of our actions as Tarleton Texans is limitless. If we strive for excellence, imagine the domino effect we can start. Tarleton could be the catalyst that saves several species of migratory birds from extinction.

Service: as members of The Wildlife Society, we feel a strong call to conserve and protect wild animals and wild places. As Tarleton Texans, we feel responsible to make our community and

our state as beautiful and wild as ever. We want to conserve the natural world for future generations to enjoy.

Not only would reducing the amount of light we produce facilitate safe migration for many species, but it would also lower the energy costs for the university. We are proposing that all lights that are not necessary for the safety of our students, faculty and staff be turned off between the hours of 11pm- 6am (CMD 2020). This would include academic building interior lights, the Tarleton Agriculture Center lights, and stadium and athletic field lights.

We have compiled a list of resources to support and aid in the explanation of our position.

We ask that you would please implement light pollution reducing policies on the Tarleton State University campuses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Tarleton Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Resources

Culture Map Dallas [CMD]. 2020. Turn off your lights at night and save birds migration across Texas. < <https://dallas.culturemap.com/news/city-life/09-09-20-lights-out-migrating-birds/>>. Accessed 28 October 2020.

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The Wildlife Society [TWS]. 2016. Ground light may shine too brightly for bird migration. <<https://wildlife.org/ground-light-may-shine-too-brightly-for-bird-migration/>>. Accessed 28 Oct 2020.

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