

# LA Wetland Education Coalition

## Wetland News for November 12, 2004



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### 1. *All About Wetlands* Newsletter

"All About Wetlands" is a new newsletter published quarterly by Environmental Concern Inc, publishers of the peer-reviewed publication, *Wetland Journal*, from 1993 to 2001. "All About Wetlands" contains articles covering a wide array of wetland topics and issues from around the world. The inaugural issue, features the successful nutria eradication program undertaken at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, introduces readers to the Iraqi Marshlands, and gives tips as to which native plants give the best fall foliage. Join Environmental Concern, Inc. to receive a copy of the newsletter. For more information, check out [www.wetland.org](http://www.wetland.org).

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### 2. Teacher Tax Deduction for Classroom Expenses

The recent tax legislation signed into law by President Bush includes an extension of the tax deduction for teachers for the first \$250 "out-of-pocket" expenses spent on instructional materials and classroom supplies. Remember to keep receipts for classroom materials purchased so that you can take the deduction come tax time. For more information, check out <http://www.nea.org/lac/edtax/index.html>.

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### 3. Lights Out to Save Birds

Turning out some city lights could save thousands of birds that migrate at night. More than 450 different species of birds migrate across North America at night. Many of them fly through dense urban centers like Toronto, Chicago and New York. And a surprising number of them die from hitting buildings. Some people in Toronto are trying to change that.

Michael Mesure is the executive director of a group called FLAP. The acronym stands for Fatal Light Awareness Program. FLAP is trying to convince people to turn off some lights at night to protect birds that are passing through. Mesure says the birds get into trouble because they're attracted to city lights. Sometimes they fly towards lighted windows but don't see the glass and hit it. Other times they hit the outside walls of buildings that are lit up by floodlights.

Mesure says part of the problem is the way birds react when they're disoriented. He says a bird that hits a building will call out to other birds, and that draws them to the trouble spot. "You would think since a bird sends out a signal that there's trouble, the birds would disperse, but in fact the exact opposite happens. It actually brings more birds in. As more birds come in, more birds collide, more distress calls, more birds come in, and that's why it can be so bad."

Mesure's group has started a project called the Bird-Friendly Building Program. It's aimed at building owners and tenants, and their request is pretty simple. They want people to turn off lights at the end of the day or turn out as many lights as they can when working late at night. Measure says this can save money on energy and maintenance.

"It's a win-win situation. No matter how you look at it, everybody wins by participating in this kind of effort. A simple flick of the switch and this issue can disappear." Measure says people in four major cities are involved in the program, and people from other major cities have expressed interest.

Author: Cassie Wyss

SOURCES: "Lights-Out Policies in Cities Save Migrating Birds," Reuters Planetark news article, June 11, 2004; online at:  
[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0417\\_030417\\_tvlightpollution.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0417_030417_tvlightpollution.html)

Fatal Light Awareness Program, or FLAP, homepage; online at:  
<http://www.flap.org/new/nestegg.htm>

Check Earthwatch Radio on the web at <http://ewradio.org>. EARTHWATCH RADIO: Program script for 5 November 2004. Earthwatch Radio is a service of the Sea Grant Institute and the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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#### 4. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

- **Description of this listserve:** A listserve serving educators interested in LA wetlands.
- **To send a message of your own to the listserv:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and type your message into the body of the email. The message will be distributed to ALL PARTICIPANTS subscribing to the listserve.
- **To UNSUBSCRIBE from this listserve:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and enclose the following single line in the body of the email  
unsubscribe LAWEC-L

***Please do not reply to the entire list unless you want everyone to read your message!***

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