

Changes in Family Composition Throughout the Season

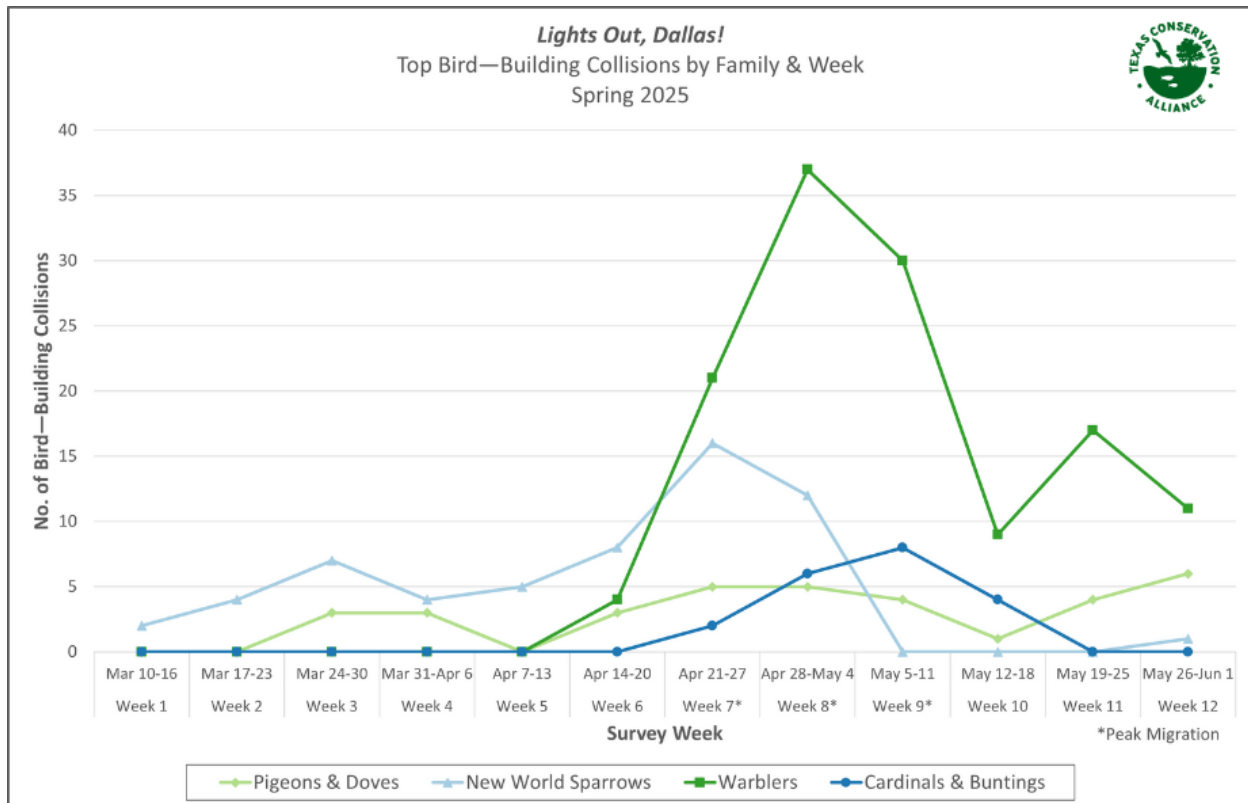
As in previous springs, New World Warblers (Parulidae) were the most frequently recorded bird—building collisions this season, with 129 individuals documented. The first warbler appeared in Week 6, followed by a sharp increase that peaked in Week 8. Numbers then steadily declined over the final three weeks of surveys.

New World Sparrows (Passerellidae) ranked second, with 59 collisions. Sparrows appeared as early as Week 1, with numbers gradually rising to a peak in Week 7. Interestingly, no sparrow collisions were recorded during Weeks 9–11, until a late-migrating Grasshopper Sparrow collided in Week 12.

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae) were the third most frequently recorded family ($n = 34$), occurring in low but consistent numbers from Weeks 3–12.

Cardinals and Buntings (Cardinalidae) ranked fourth ($n = 20$), first appearing in Week 7. Their numbers increased through Week 9 before tapering off after Week 10.

The graph below illustrates these trends in family composition over the course of the season. Together, these four families accounted for **87%** of all bird—building collisions recorded this spring ($n = 279$), with **Warblers alone constituting 46%** of the total. Warblers and New World Sparrows combined made up an average of **66% of weekly collisions**, ranging from 50% to 80% depending on the week.



Changes in prevalence of the four most frequently found families in Dallas throughout spring migration this year

Top Colliders Similar to Past Springs

This spring's top ten collision species were largely consistent with past springs, with one exception: Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) made its debut on the list, marking the first time it has ranked among the top ten.

While the species themselves were familiar, the number of individual collisions was significantly higher this spring when adjusted for survey effort. In fact, more collisions were recorded per survey this season than in any previous spring. (*See next section for more details.*)

Another key difference: Painted Bunting (*Passereina ciris*) did not appear in the top ten this spring — a first since *Lights Out, Dallas!* began.

Notably, several species—like Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*), and Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*)—have consistently ranked among the top five colliders across all springs, highlighting their ongoing vulnerability during migration through Dallas.

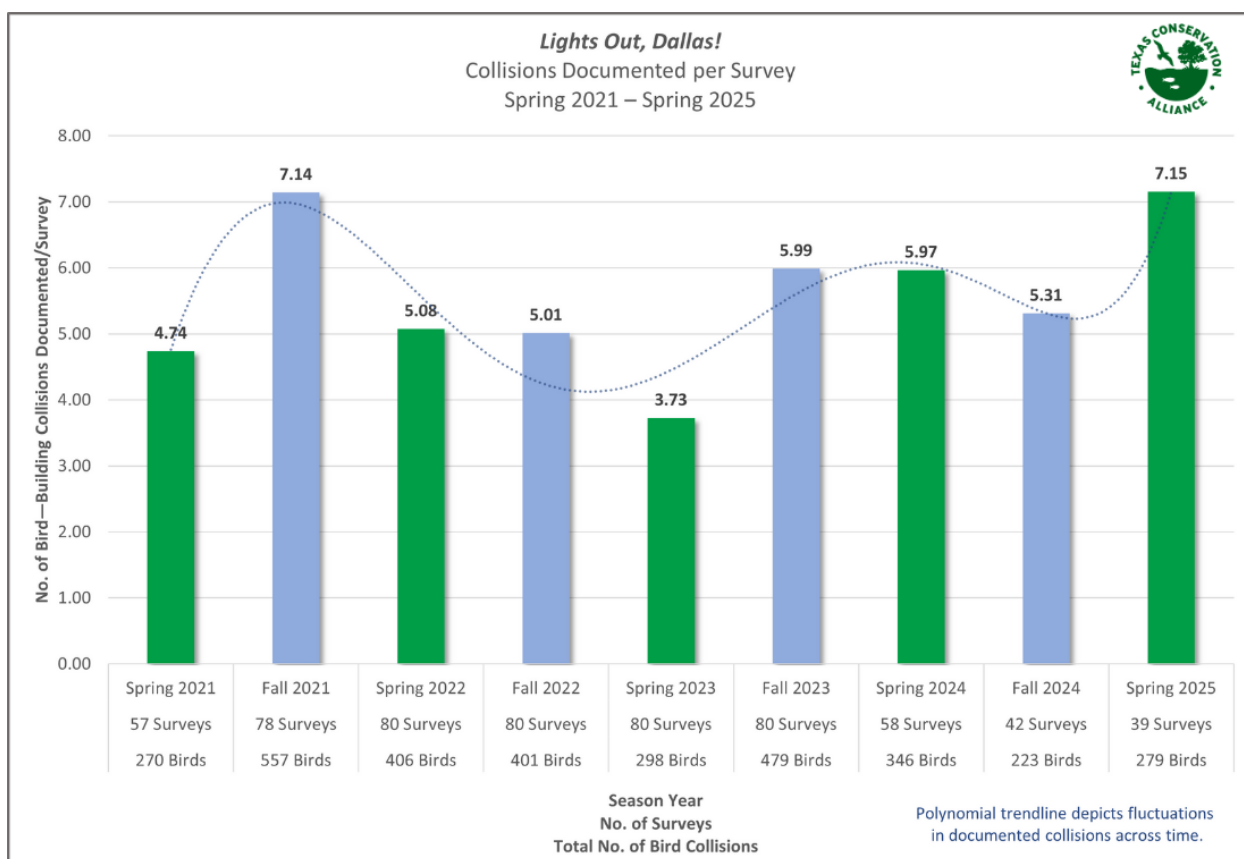
LIGHTS OUT, DALLAS! Top Spring Collisions by Species 				
Species Common Name		Spring 2025 (39 Surveys)	Spring 2024 (58 Surveys)	Spring 2023 (80 Surveys)
Ovenbird		41	53	38
Lincoln's Sparrow		33	35	22
White-winged Dove		25	31	42
Common Yellowthroat		24	28	21
Nashville Warbler		15	16	5
Mourning Warbler		13	4	6
White-throated Sparrow		10	8	8
Indigo Bunting		10	18	5
Grasshopper Sparrow		9	16	11
Northern Waterthrush		9	6	3

Top bird—building collision species found in Dallas this spring compared to the last two springs

Collision Trends Over Time: A Closer Look

To accurately compare results across seasons, we adjust for survey effort by analyzing the *average number of collisions per survey*. Over the past year and a half, fewer surveys have been conducted each week, making this metric essential for tracking long-term trends.

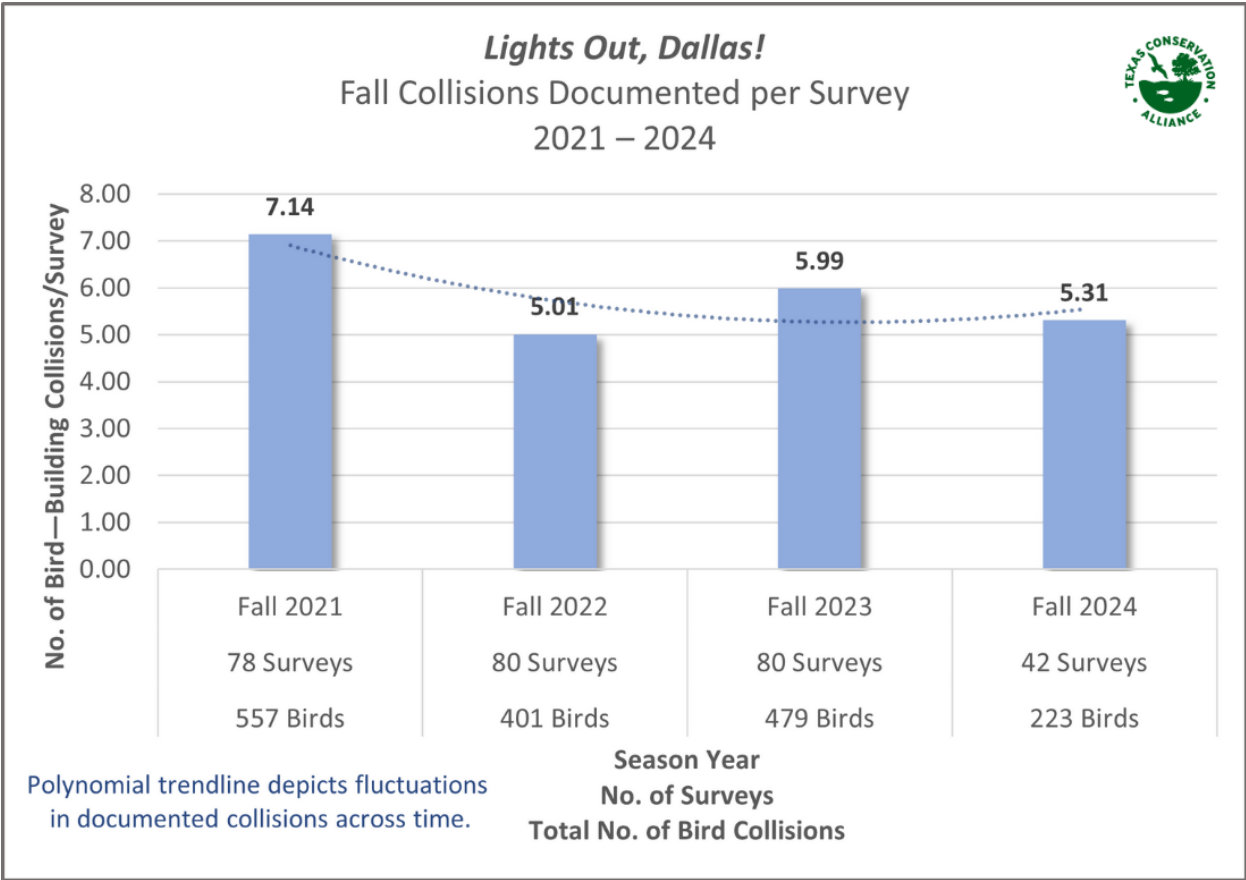
As shown in the chart below, spring surveys historically average about **five collisions per survey**, while fall surveys average about **six**. This seasonal difference makes sense — fall migration follows breeding season, when bird populations are at their highest, and include many young birds navigating their first migration¹.



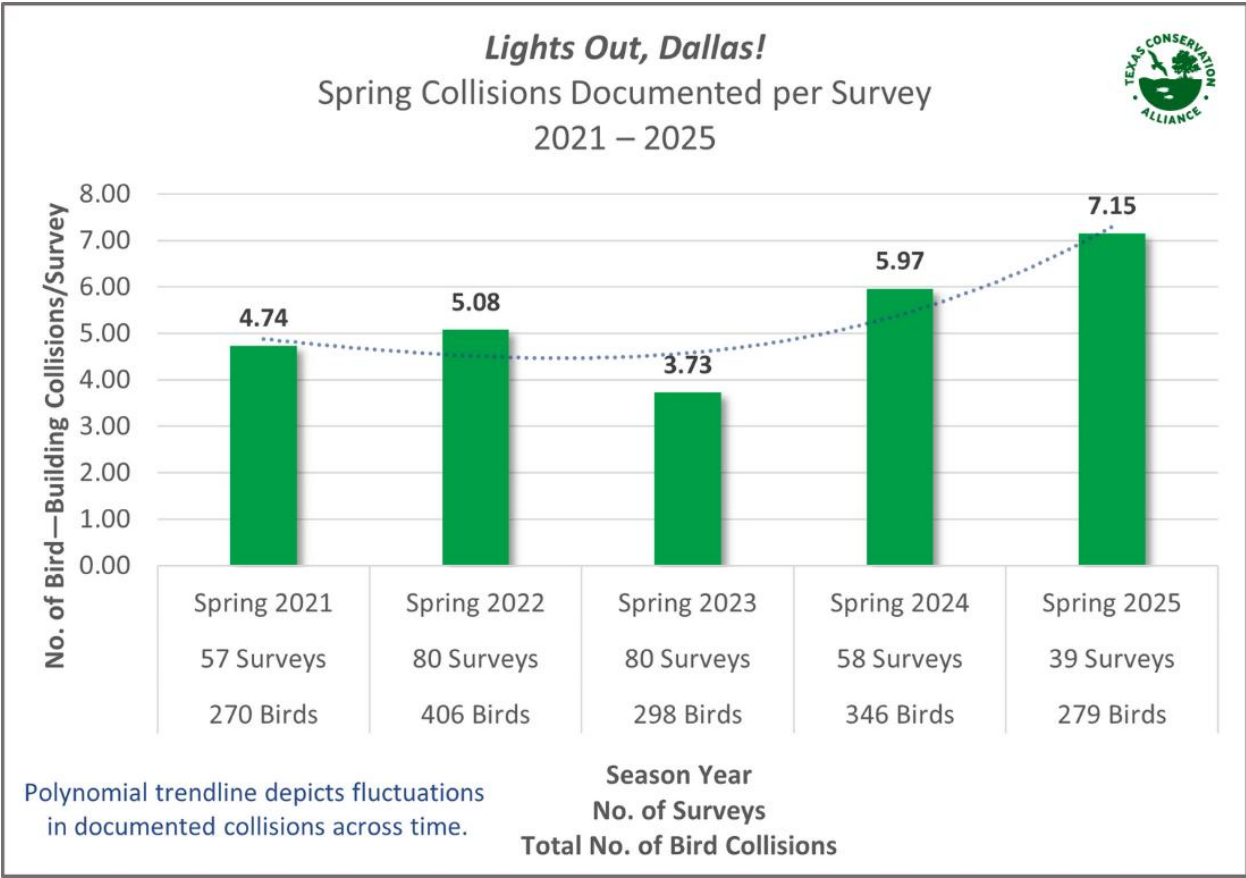
Changes in the number of collisions per survey in Dallas between Spring 2021 and Spring 2025

When we examine spring and fall separately, some encouraging and concerning trends emerge:

- **Fall collisions have gradually declined** since *Lights Out, Dallas!* began.
- **Spring collisions, however, are trending upward.**



Fall collisions in Dallas trending downward across time



Spring collisions in Dallas trending upward across time

This spring, we documented an average of **7.15 collisions per survey** — the **highest on record** since the program’s inception. Several factors may have contributed, including an increase in severe spring storms across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, which can disorient migrating birds and increase collision risk.

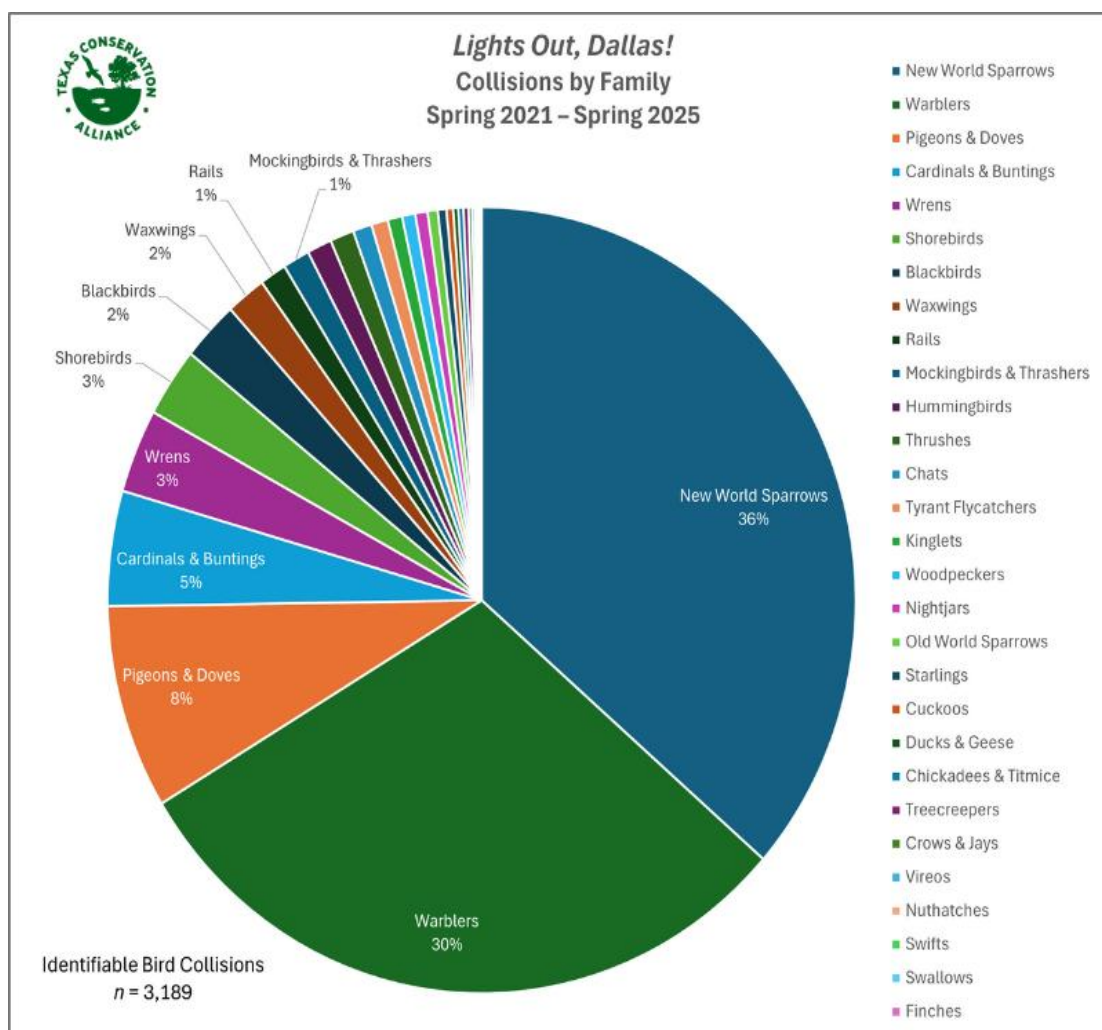
Despite the progress seen in fall seasons, the upward trend in spring collisions, combined with the absence of a significant overall decline underscores the continued need for public education and advocacy. Light pollution and building glass remain serious threats to birds.

Cumulative Impact: Five Years of *Lights Out, Dallas!*

Between Spring 2021 and Spring 2025, **3,339 bird—building collisions** were documented in downtown Dallas, representing **29 avian families and 110 species**.

(Note: Unlike the above analyses, this analysis includes collisions found during preseason surveys and incidental finds on non-survey days. Data from the pilot season in Fall 2020 is excluded due to non-standardized protocols.)

Of the **3,189 identifiable collision victims**, **two-thirds were either New World Sparrows or Warblers**, as shown in the pie chart below. This aligns with seasonal survey trends — these two families consistently account for the majority of collisions in both spring and fall.

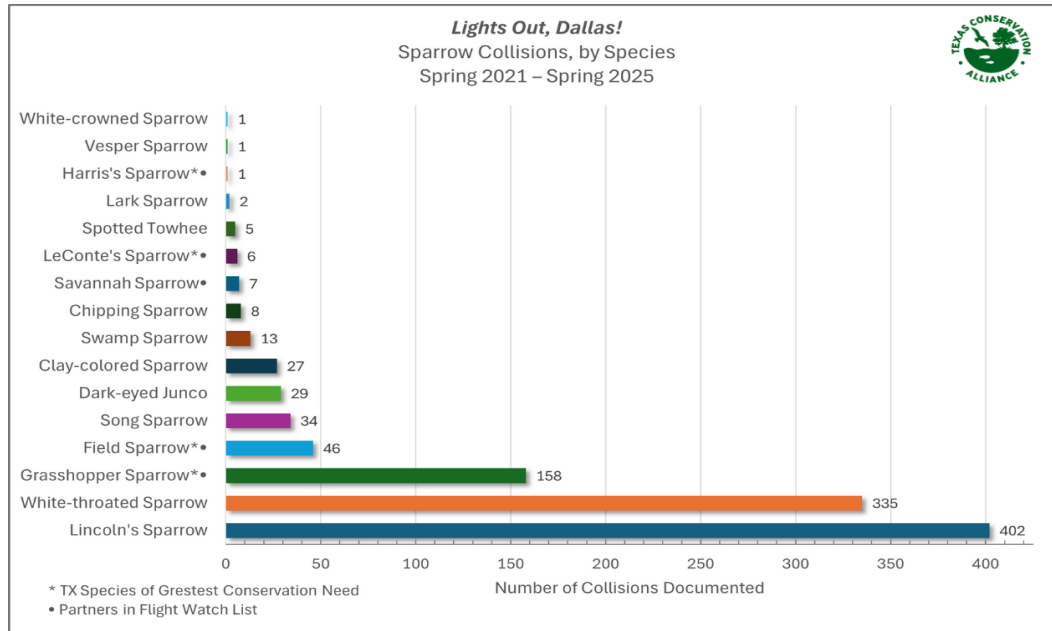


Identifiable Lights Out, Dallas! collisions by family, 2021–2025

- **New World Sparrows (Passerellidae)**

Collisions have been recorded in **16 sparrow species**, with Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), and Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) among the most frequent.

➤ This group includes **4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)**², as designated by Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD), and **5 species on the Partners in Flight (PIF) Watch List**³.

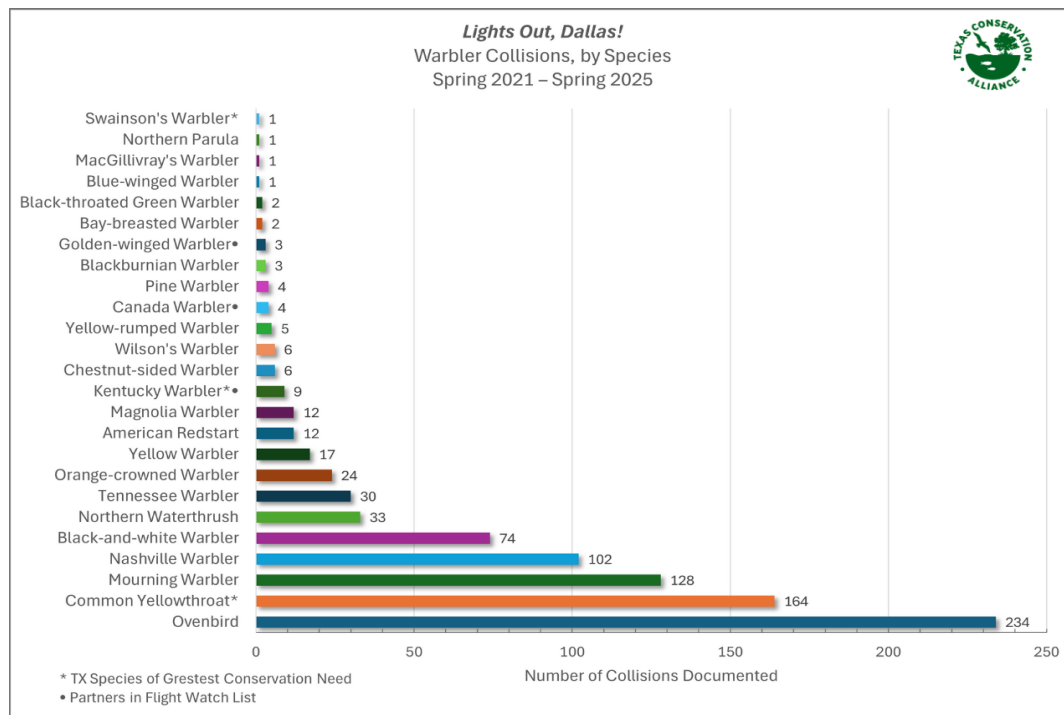


Collisions in New World Sparrow species, 2021–2025

- **Warblers (Parulidae)**

A total of **25 warbler species** have been documented, with Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) occurring most often.

➤ This group includes **3 SGCN**² and **3 species on the PIF Watch List**³.

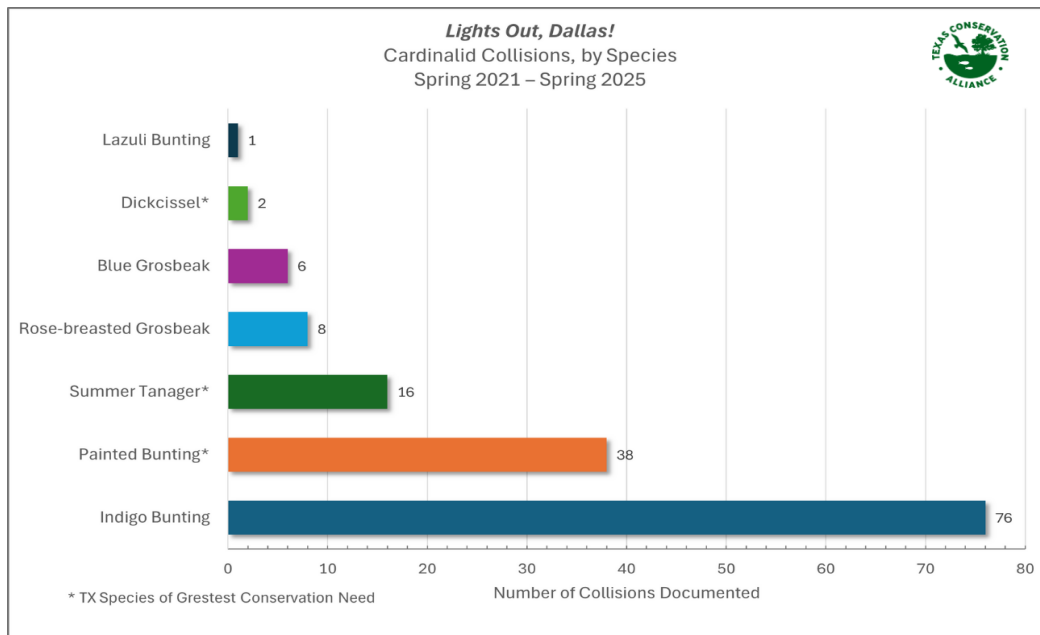


Collisions in Warbler species, 2021–2025

- **Cardinals, Buntings, and Allies (Cardinalidae)**

Collisions have been recorded in **7 Cardinalid species**, most notably Indigo Bunting (*Passreina cyanea*) and Painted Bunting.

➤ **3 species in this group** are listed as SGCN².

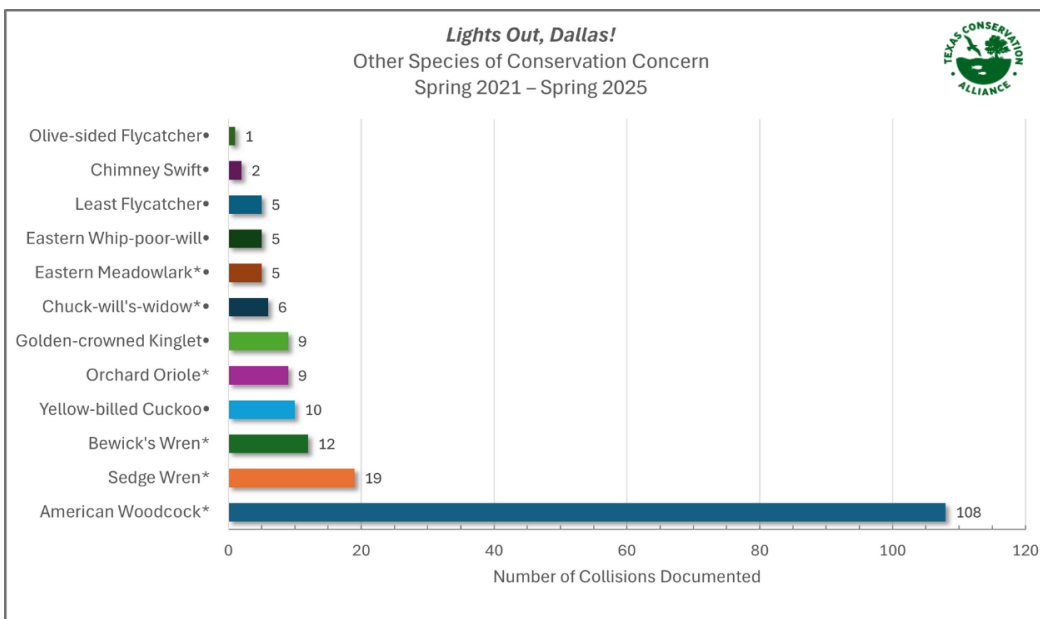


Collisions in Cardinalid species, 2021–2025

- **Other Species of Conservation Concern**

Twelve additional threatened species from seven different families have also been documented, including Nightjars, Sandpipers, Cuckoos, Swifts, Tyrant Flycatchers, Wrens, and Blackbirds.

➤ All are designated as species of conservation concern by TPWD² or PIF³.



Collisions in other species of conservation concern, 2021–2025

While building collisions may not occur in numbers large enough to threaten species at a global scale, they represent an added (**and preventable**) risk, especially for populations that are already declining and species like the Ovenbird that experience disproportionately high collision rates relative to their population size¹. This underscores the importance of continued collective action to keep our feathered neighbors safe and flying free.

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul...”

— Emily Dickinson

As we reflect on the progress of *Lights Out, Dallas!* and our collective efforts to protect migratory birds, this quote reminds us that birds carry with them a quiet, persistent hope. Hope is present in every early morning collision survey, every community outreach event, and every policy change we help shape.

Each window retrofitted, each message shared, and each data point collected speaks to the power of collective action. Thank you to everyone who has supported the *Lights Out, Dallas!* campaign and rolled up your sleeves alongside us.

Observations and analysis by:

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References:

- ¹ Loss, S. R., Will, T., and Marra, P. P. (2014). Bird–building collisions in the United States: Estimates of annual mortality and species vulnerability. *Ornithological Applications* 116:8–23. <http://doi.org/10.1650/CONDOR-13-090.1>
- ² Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (2025). State Wildlife Action Plan for Texas: 2023 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/swap/>
- ³ Partners in Flight (2024). Avian Conservation Assessment Database, version 2024. <http://pif.birdconservancy.org/ACAD>

Thank you to our partners and generous donors for their support, which enables us to continue our critical work in education and advocacy for safer environments for birds.

