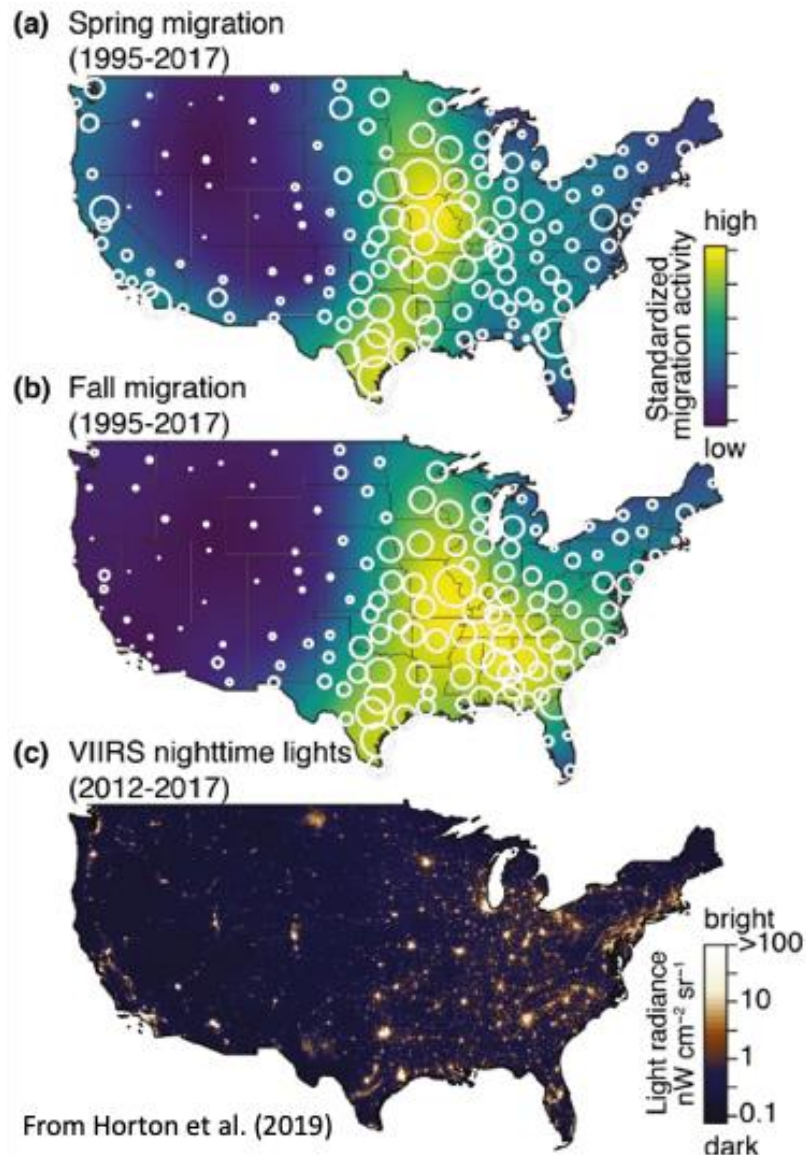


Why are lights such a big deal?

Historically, the night (in which birds evolved to migrate) was a dark time. However, as we all know, light proliferated across the landscape following our harnessing of electricity. The problem of light impacting bird migration in North America is further compounded by the fact that the majority of our light at night is concentrated in areas through which the majority of our avian migrants pass during each migration season (see image below from Horton et al. 2019). While this is primarily the eastern half of the country, out here in the American West we too have large quantities of light in areas where we also have large numbers of migrants (the Rio Grande corridor, California coast, and front range of the Rocky Mountains to name a few). This is why, even here in the American West, we need to do our part to reduce the amount of light we are exposing our feathered friends to during migration!



ref: [Horton et al. \(2019\)](#)