

# Birds and Windows – A Deadly Combination

## What YOU can do to Prevent Bird Window Strikes

### THE PROBLEM:

- **350 million to 1 billion** birds die each year from flying into windows in the United States.

### WHY IT HAPPENS:

- Glass is invisible to birds. When birds fly towards a window they see a reflection of the trees and sky and think there is no change in the environment.

### WHERE IT HAPPENS:

- Residential buildings from 1 to 3 stories account for 44% of deaths. There are approximately 123 million such buildings in the U.S.
- Low-rise buildings between 4 and 11 stories high account for 56%. There are approximately 15 million such buildings in the U.S.
- Skyscrapers account for less than 1%. There are approximately 21,000 such buildings in the U.S.
- At the Jackson Bottom Wetlands Education Center we record between 20 – 50 collisions / year.

### WHY IT MATTERS:

- Hitting windows is the second biggest human-related cause of bird deaths, after habitat destruction.
- Healthy populations of wild birds are an important part of our ecology and provide us with important economic, psychological and emotional benefits.
- Each death is tragic, especially when many can be avoided through simple, inexpensive methods.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Educate yourself, your family, friends and co-workers about **THE PROBLEM** and **THE SOLUTION**.
- Visit Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve to see solutions in action and get more information.
- Decide which of the six methods on display would work best for your situation.
- Go make the windows at your home or work-place bird safe!

### THE SOLUTION:

- **Eliminate the reflective quality of the window.**

- Cover the entire window with markers spaced not more than
  - 4 inches apart on the vertical (up and down) axis and
  - 2 inches apart on the horizontal (side to side) axis.

### THE 2 x 4 RULE

Any further apart and a bird may perceive a space large enough to fly through.

- Do this by applying decals or tape on the *outside* surface of the window
- Do this by hanging a screen, string or paracord in front of the window

(Please turn over for solutions)

# SOLUTIONS for reducing bird – window collisions

There are six different SOLUTIONS on display at the Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Education Center. Each is proven to be effective in eliminating the reflective quality of a window.

You can see what each method looks like in practice, where to buy the product and its cost, or how to make your own.

- **Decals- WindowAlert™** Static cling decals placed on the *outside* of the window break the reflective quality of the window. UV reflective decals will be less obtrusive to the human eye and more visible to birds. Non-UV reflective decals also work. It is important that all decals are applied to the outside of the window using the 2x4 rule explained above.
- **UV Liquid- WindowAlert™** This product is designed to fill in the gaps between decals on windows. UV Liquid is easy to apply. Simply use the sponge-tipped marker to make dots on the outside of the window. The dots dry to virtually clear, last three months, and are easy to remove.
- **Tape- The Feather Friendly® Solution** is a narrow adhesive tape with small square markers embedded in it. The tape is applied to the exterior surface of glass in horizontal rows, then the tape is peeled off and only the small square markers remain creating a dense pattern for birds to see and a pleasing see-through pattern for humans.
- **Tape- American Bird Conservancy BirdTape.** Easy to install, long-lasting and affordable, ABC BirdTape is highly effective when installed as recommended. This translucent tape allows light in, but partially obscures views. Lasts at least four years when installed on the exterior surface of a window.
- **Bird Screens- The Bird Screen Company.** These screens provide a flexible barrier between the birds and the window. Much like regular window screens the screen is transparent enough to see through. They hang looser than regular screens to provide a cushion to the birds that may inadvertently fly into it. The screen will also prevent territorial birds from attacking their reflections.
- **String- Acopian Bird Savers-** Bird Savers are 1/8" paracord that is strung vertically with a 4 inch spacing. You can find directions to make your own or order them on line. Research shows these to be extremely effective in preventing window collisions. This is also the least expensive way for treating large areas with windows.

## INFORMATION SOURCES:

Life & environment: Windows are major bird killers. Science News, Volume 185, No. 6, 3/22/2104  
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[www.abcbirds.org/program/glass-collisions/](http://www.abcbirds.org/program/glass-collisions/)  
[www.audubonportland.org/wcc/urban/windows](http://www.audubonportland.org/wcc/urban/windows)

## PRODUCT SOURCES:

[www.birdwatchingdaily.com/featured-stories/15-products-that-prevent-windows-strikes/](http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/featured-stories/15-products-that-prevent-windows-strikes/)