

Why Do Birds Collide?

Learn about Bird-Window Collisions and How You Can Prevent Them!



For more information, visit:
www.safewings.ca

What should you do if you find an injured bird?

Act immediately! Injured birds are vulnerable to predators, pedestrians, and motorists. Even if it can fly away, it may still have head trauma or other internal injuries.

Approach the bird from behind and pick it up gently with both hands.

For small birds, cup both your hands around the bird, or use a soft, fine-mesh net, place a box over it.

For larger birds, drop a light towel or jacket over it.

Place the bird in a paper bag or box with something for it to perch on, like a crumpled up tissue of paper. Fold down the top of the bag and secure it with a paperclip.

Call or bring the bird to your local wildlife rehabilitator.

Ottawa Area: Safe Wings Ottawa, Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (OVWBCC)

Keep the bag or box upright in a dark and quiet place, away from loud noises, children, pets.

Even if a bird appears unhurt and becomes more active, there is a high likelihood of internal injuries. **Please do not release it, call us for advice.**

Do not handle the bird more than absolutely necessary.

Do not give the bird food or water.



Who to Call?
613-216-8999 Safe Wings Ottawa
613-854-2854 OVWBCC

We would love to hear from you!

Take our quick survey



<https://bit.ly/hintonbirds>

In Partnership with:



SAFE WINGS OTTAWA

Bird Collision Research, Prevention and Rescue

HINTONBURG

Community Association

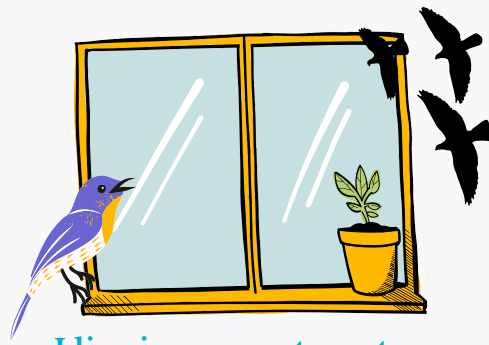
Carleton University



Frequently Asked Questions

Why do birds collide?

1. **Reflections:** Birds see trees, vegetation, and sources of food and water reflected on the surface of glass and fly into glass while trying to get to these things.
2. **Clear Glass:** Vertical transparent surfaces do not exist in nature! Birds cannot perceive the clear glass and fly right into it.
3. **Light Pollution:** Nocturnal birds use the light of the moon and stars to navigate in the dark. Artificial lights can attract birds and disorient them, resulting in collisions.
4. **Time of Year:** Fall and spring migration are times when bird collisions are at the highest. The Ottawa River is a major migratory route for many species.



I live in an apartment building/rental. What can I do to prevent collisions there?

Even if you are unable to apply a collision-prevention product to the outside of your windows, there are still strategies you can try, such as closing your curtains and moving plants away from windows. There are temporary fixes that can work, such as cords hung on the outside of the window.

You can also try bringing collisions (and their solutions) to the attention of your building manager or landlord — many are simply unaware of this problem and may be willing to take action once they know the scale it.

Will preventing collisions at my home ruin my view?

Many effective products for collision prevention are unobtrusive, or decorative and attractive. Volunteers who use these products at their homes report that they don't even notice them, much like window screens. And watching birds through the window is much more enjoyable when you know you've done what you can to make that window safe.

How You Can Help

Small Scale Solutions:

1. Bird Screens
2. Oil-based paint markers
3. Acopian BirdSavers (or DIY!)
4. Feather Friendly Visual Marker Tape



Other Strategies:

- Move bird feeders and baths closer to windows. This prevents birds from colliding with windows at high speed if they flee a predator at the feeder.
- Close curtains or blinds to reduce clear views through opposite or adjacent windows. This can eliminate see-through effects.
- Move houseplants away from windows or hang sheer curtains so birds can't easily see the greenery.

What DOES NOT work:

- Single window decals, or markers that are spaced too far apart
- UV decals; these are not visible to all birds and are least visible early in the morning, when most collisions occur
- Treatments applied to the inside of windows
- Noise deterrents
- Plastic owls