

LIVING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE



Birds & Windows

Up to 1 billion birds die every year in the United States due to collisions with windows.

In the Portland area, over 90 native bird species have been found injured or dead from hitting a window.

As Portland grows, risks to birds increase. With your help, we can minimize these hazards and ensure that Portland is a bird-friendly city.



The annual toll of windows on birds is staggering. Photo by Kenneth Herdy of FLAP.

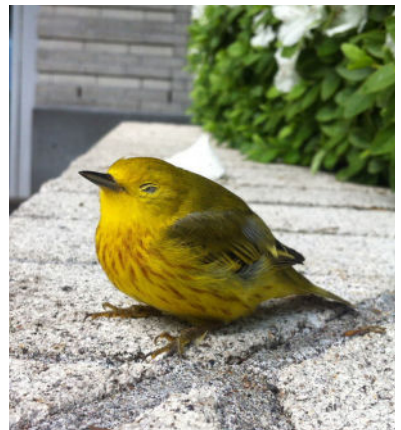
Why Birds Hit Windows

Birds do not perceive windows as a barrier. They see a reflection of trees, shrubs, and sky as continuation of habitat and fly into it. Most window strikes occur within the first 3-4 stories of a house or building. More than half of all strikes occur at low rise commercial buildings and nearly half occur at residential homes.

Birds may attempt to fly through an area the size of an average handprint. Visual markers spaced every 2-4 inches on windows deters strikes. A single decal is not enough to eliminate the strike hazard.

If a Bird Strikes Your Window

Window strikes may result either in death or injury. If a bird is stunned, place it in a small box lined with a towel. The box may be placed halfway on a heating pad (low heat). Do not give food. Place the box in a warm quiet place and check the bird in an hour. If it is alert, active and able to fly, release it immediately. If the bird is still having trouble, call the Wildlife Care Center (information on back panel of this brochure.)



Many birds that are stunned by window collisions die due to impact or secondary issues (cats, cars, other predators, etc).

Tips To Prevent Window Strikes

- Position feeders within 3 feet of windows (to reduce the momentum they have in flight if spooked off the feeder).
- Get creative! Draw on your windows with tempera paint or Sharpie oil-based paint pens (from any art supply store).
- Apply paracord or mylar tape to the outside of windows (e.g. birdsavers.com).
- Exterior screens that come with your windows are great, and you can buy after-market screens for windows that don't have them (e.g. birdscreen.com, easyupshades.com).
- Decals can be effective but only if placed very densely (2-4 inches apart) on the outside of the window. You can make your own by cutting shapes out of contact paper!
- Turn off outside lights and close blinds during peak migration season: **Sept 19-Oct 19 and April 15-May 15** to minimize the light pollution that confuses migrant songbirds. Or better yet, Take the Pledge to Go Lights Out and reduce your overnight lighting every night of the year!

More Tips for Reducing Window Strikes at Home at:
bit.ly/Reduce-Window-Strikes



Window Strike imprint from a Mourning Dove. Photo by J. Donaldson.



Lights Out Portland

Most birds migrate at night to minimize predation, maximize daytime foraging, and use celestial cues to guide them. Artificial lighting disorients birds and can lure them into the city.

This may result in impact with lit buildings. Reducing unnecessary overnight lighting not only helps

minimize window strikes, but also reduces light pollution – a phenomenon that impacts circadian rhythms and predator-prey relationships in birds, mammals, amphibians, fish, insects, and humans! Turning off lights also reduces electricity use and the release of greenhouse gases. Turn off your lights and you can help the City of Portland reach its goal to reduce carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050!

About BirdSafe Portland

BirdSafe Portland is a collaborative effort between Bird Alliance of Oregon, City of Portland, US Fish and Wildlife Service, architects, developers, and other key stakeholders to raise awareness and develop solutions for window strike hazards.

DOCUMENTATION

- 2012 Resource Guide for Bird Friendly Building Design Guidelines (birdallianceoregon.org/files/hazards/bfbdd)
- 2015 Green Building Policy adopted by City of Portland requiring all city buildings to incorporate bird-friendly design.
- 2018 Portland Central City Plan was adopted with Bird Safe Glazing Standard requires buildings with more than 30% glazing to treat their windows: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/686891>



Wildlife Care Center • 503-292-0304
9 a.m.-5 p.m. • 7 days a week, 365 days a year

BirdSafe products are available at:
Nature Store • 503-292-9453
10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day

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