

Reducing Bird Collisions with Windows

It has been estimated that somewhere near 1 billion birds die each year in the United States from colliding into windows. While fortunately some of these collisions simply stun the bird, often they can prove fatal. Even if a bird is able to fly away it could have sustained permanent injuries to internal organs that over time could result in death.

The primary reason for collisions is reflective glass. For example, a bird may be fleeing from a predator and in a panic see the reflection of the landscape as a suitable direction to fly for safety. The bird could then crash into the window with considerable speed and force.

There are several things to consider to make your windows safer:

- Relocate Feeders
- Window Appearance
- Window Decals



Klamath Bird Observatory
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Fatal Bird Collision



Collision Reducing Window Decals

How You Can Keep Birds Safe from Windows:

- **Relocate Feeders:** Many bird collisions are the result of bird feeder location. To lessen this problem you can do one of two things. You can place your bird feeder/feeders at least 3 feet from any windows. By placing them at this distance birds will not be able to reach a high flight speed and therefore injurious collision risk is reduced. The other way to tackle this problem, is to place the feeder/feeders very close to the windows so the window will not be mistaken for the natural landscape.
- **Window Appearance and Decals:** Reflection of the habitat on windows is the primary reason for window collisions. To help reduce or breakup reflection, there are a number of different techniques you can implement. Try one of these ideas:
 - Spray-on materials to dull the windows
 - Hang shiny objects on windows so they will move in the wind and deter birds
 - Plant trees in locations that will block the reflection on windows
 - Hang fine-mesh netting so that birds will bounce off without getting harmed and you can still have a nice view
 - Attach decals such as hawk or raptor silhouettes to break up window reflections

Additional Resources: Klamath Bird Observatory (<http://www.klamathbird.org>)
Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/challenges/window_collisions), National Audubon Society (http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/SafeWindows.html)