

Preventing Home Collisions

Spring migration of birds is underway. The birds you love to watch in your yard are occupied with many activities from recovering from long journeys, establishing territories and nesting. American Bird Conservancy estimates that as many as 975 million birds were killed by collisions with windows in the United States every year.

Why do birds hit windows? The two most common causes of daytime window collisions are:

- Birds see landscapes in *window reflections*.
- If a bird can see through to the outside through two aligned windows in your home, they confuse them for a tunnel and will attempt to fly through to get to the other side.



Collisions can be reduced by any of the following:

- To avoid a bird's ability to look through one window and see the outside through another window, simply close the blinds or curtains on one of the windows.
- Apply window clings. To be effective, clings may have to be placed no more than 4" apart.
- Hang brightly colored fluttering ribbons in front of windows. Alternately, tie unwanted compact disks (CDs) on string in front of the window so that they turn in the wind.
- One of the most effective ways to reduce bird window collisions is to install fine-mesh plastic netting in front of windows (especially during periods of peak migration). Leave a few inches between the glass and the netting to allow birds to collide softly with the mesh instead of hitting the glass
- Apply film such as CollideEscape that greatly reduces the reflections on the outside of windows.
- Place bird feeders very close (within three feet) or at least ten yards away from windows.
- Lower window awnings to reduce window reflections.



Please take some action on your home windows to help reduce the number of bird deaths this year.

Registering your home will let other people know that you are taking action to prevent bird window collisions! You can apply to register your home at http://savinglives.wihumane.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=16400

Adapted from Wisconsin Humane Society's "Preventing Home Collisions" at <http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/homecollisions.aspx>. Additional information can be found at https://www.abcbirds.org/birdconservationalliance/members/window_paper.PDF