



HOMES SAFE FOR BIRDS

FLAP
CANADA



Windows are everywhere – in our houses, cottages, condos, apartments, even balconies. Unfortunately, birds that make their homes in meadows, woods or wetlands have no concept of glass. This is especially true for birds migrating during spring and fall. For them, glass can be deadly.

Most people have experienced the heartbreaking thud of a bird hitting a window.



Environment Canada biologists have concluded that collisions with windows on small buildings are a leading cause of bird deaths, taking millions of lives every year.

Windows deceive birds: reflected trees or sky, a tempting potted plant seen through glass, or a view straight through the building or glass balcony railing can trick birds into thinking that they can sail through to the other side. Birds that do not die on impact can go into shock, becoming easy prey for predators such as cats.

Bird/Window Collisions

What to do if you find an injured bird

Should a bird hit your window, gently place it inside an unwaxed paper bag or cardboard box firmly secured. Place it in a quiet location away from people and pets. Do not give the bird food or water. Contact your local wildlife rehabilitator for further instructions.

Reporting bird/window collisions

Should you find a bird injured or killed by a

window collision, please contribute to research by recording the incident on the FLAP Mapper, a citizen-science global mapping database at flap.org/mapper_guide.

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The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP)

Canada's mission is to safeguard migratory birds in the urban environment through education, research, rescue and rehabilitation.

FLAP Canada is a charitable organization that relies on donations from supporters.

FLAP Canada

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Nature Canada

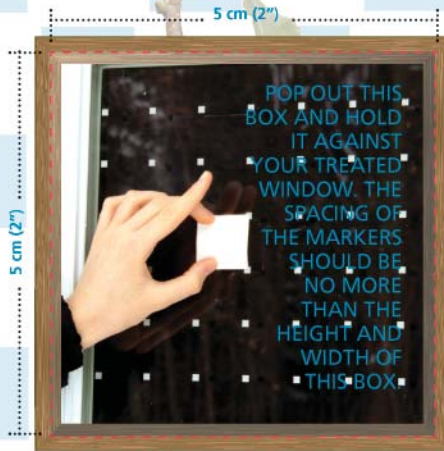
is the oldest national nature conservation charity in Canada. Our mission is to protect and conserve wildlife and habitats in Canada by engaging people and advocating on behalf of nature. Visit Nature Canada at www.naturecanada.ca, 75 Albert Street Suite 300, Ottawa, K1P 5E7, telephone: 613 562 3447.

We can all take simple, effective measures to help prevent bird collisions

Be creative by treating your glass like a canvas. Here are some attractive and cost-effective techniques.

Bird-Safe Design

Uniformly cover the outside of windows with a contrasting pattern of any shape, keeping these visual markers no more than 10 cm (4 inches) apart vertically or 5 cm (2 inches)



◀ PLACE THIS OPENING OVER VARIOUS AREAS OF YOUR TREATED WINDOW. IF NO MARKERS CAN BE SEEN, THE SPACING IS TOO BIG.

Hang ribbons or strings on the outside of your windows 10 cm (4 inches) apart or purchase Acopian BirdSavers at birdsavers.com.

▼ ACOPIAN BIRDSAVERS

horizontally. To help keep smaller birds such as hummingbirds and warblers safe, a window must have no reflective openings larger than 5 x 5 cm (2 X 2 inches).

◀ FEATHER FRIENDLY® RESIDENTIAL TAPE AVAILABLE AT FEATHERFRIENDLY.ORG

Saving Birds

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE CONVENIENCE GROUP



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF ACOPIAN

Draw patterns on your windows with a bar of soap or highlighter pen. You may need to repeat this after every rainfall.

▼ BIRD SCREEN



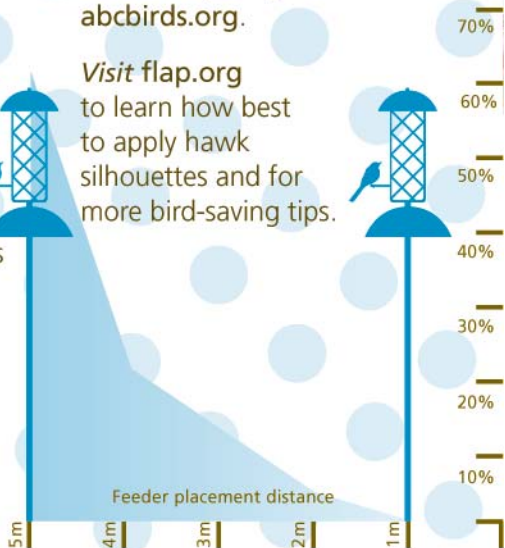
Install externally mounted window screens using window mounts or suction cups. Visit birdscreen.com.

Apply special film on the outside of your windows. See

COLLIDESCAPETM

the products available at featherfriendly.org, collidescape.org and abcbirds.org.

Visit flap.org to learn how best to apply hawk silhouettes and for more bird-saving tips.





Now that you have made your windows safer for birds, here are some **important additional tips:**

Position your bird feeders and birdbaths half a metre (1.5 feet) or less from your windows. Over this short distance, birds cannot build up enough momentum to injure themselves should they hit your window. The closer the feeder to your window, the better for the birds and your viewing! (See the graphic on the left.)

Move houseplants away from your windows or install blinds to be drawn during the day with slats turned open.



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE FEEDING ON NATIVE SUMAC

Plant native trees, shrubs and flowering plants in your yard to provide food and nesting areas for birds. Visit nanps.org for tips.

THIS PHOTO BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURES HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE FOR BIRDS AND CATS.

Scientists estimate that free-roaming and feral cats cause roughly 200 million bird deaths annually in Canada. Act now to keep cats safe and save bird lives at www.catsandbirds.ca.



FLAP CANADA PHOTO

Welcoming Birds

For other ways to help birds, visit <http://naturecanada.ca/initiatives/save-bird-lives/>