



HOMES SAFE FOR BIRDS

CANADA
FLAP



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.



Canadian research¹ estimates 25 million birds fatally collide with windows at low, mid and high-rise buildings annually.

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.

¹Quantifying Human-related Mortality of Birds in Canada, September 2013

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.

About FLAP Canada

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada is a registered charity (CRA# 14074 6736 RR0001) working to safeguard migratory birds in the built

environment through policy development, research, education, collision prevention, rescue and rehabilitation. Together with partners in governments, businesses and communities, our organization promotes bird-safe practices and engages in conservation-in-action. To learn more or donate, contact us at flap@flap.org or visit flap.org.

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Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

This brochure was also funded in part by featherfriendly.org.

We can take *simple, effective* measures to help keep birds safe



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.



▼ 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



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF ACOPIAN

Saving Birds

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE CONVENIENCE GROUP



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

▼ BIRD SCREEN

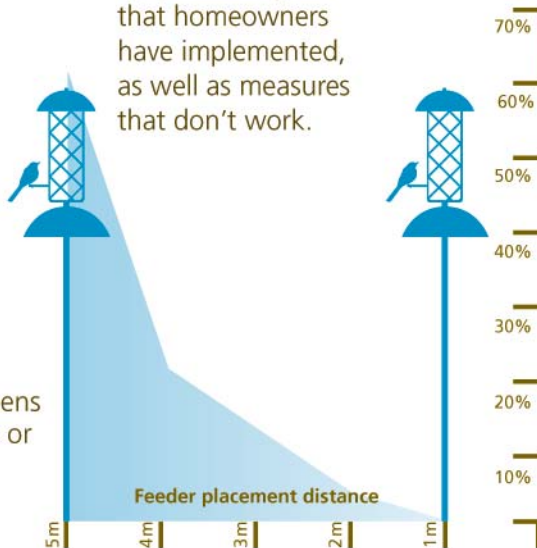


COLLIDESCAPE™

➤ Visit flap.org/residential for more bird-saving tips, including ideas that homeowners have implemented, as well as measures that don't work.

➤ *Apply special film* on the outside of your windows.

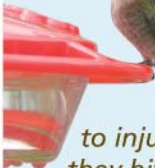
➤ *Install externally mounted window screens* using window mounts or suction cups.





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.)



% fatalities after window strike



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.*

- *Protect your cat & wildlife from harm by keeping your cat indoors. Visit keepanimalssafe.ca. The image below captures 3 important messages: cats indoors, bird-safe markers applied to windows and bird feeders close to windows.*



FLAP-CANADA PHOTO

Welcoming Birds

PHOTOGRAPH © CAROLL EDWARDS