



## Building Bird Safety



| > BirdSafe®

Birds connect people with the beauty of our natural world and provide critical ecological functions.

Taking from that inspiration is a design for the environment opportunity: beauty and bird-safe buildings.

## Why Birdsafe

Every year, millions of migratory birds struggle with the massive expansion of built urban environments. Canadian research<sup>1</sup> estimates 25 million birds fatally collide with windows at low, mid and high-rise buildings annually.

In Canada, protection of birds is divided between federal and provincial governments.<sup>2</sup> In a growing number of jurisdictions, it is an offence to kill or injure birds by reflective windows on buildings.

To help mitigate non-compliance to legislation for existing buildings, meet mandatory requirements for new buildings and help position environmental sustainability, Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada spent three years developing BirdSafe® standards in collaboration with bird conservation organizations, architects and bird experts to ensure accuracy and a sound methodology.<sup>3</sup> See Acknowledgments.\*

<sup>1</sup> Quantifying Human-related Mortality of Birds in Canada, September 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Section 32(1) of the Canadian Species at Risk Act (SARA); and, Section 14 of the Ontario Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

<sup>3</sup> Bird-building collision behaviour is not an exact science and cannot be predicted with 100% accuracy or guarantee.



# Working Together

For over a decade, we have informed architects and advised builders, property managers and city planners throughout North America on the development and adoption of bird-friendly guidelines, as well as delivered BirdSafe Building assessments following our methodology.<sup>†</sup>

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## Due Diligence

Determine scope of project

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## Assess

Capture and evaluate individual façade threat levels: low, moderate, high, lethal

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## Report

Report on findings, data collected by the assessor and recommend solutions

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We assign trained BirdSafe consultants to assess your project or building. The fee structure would be based on a charge per façade basis. By selecting a non-profit agency whose mandate is bird conservation, you are assured of a partner with a vested interest in achieving a successful outcome in this work.

<sup>†</sup> Client references available on request.



## Let's Talk Bird

"Bird-building collision prevention strategies help us meet our bird-friendly guidelines and achieve Markham's Greenprint Sustainability goals. FLAP Canada plays a key conservation-in-action role and we work collaboratively to mitigate bird deaths and injuries."

Valerie Burke, Chair of City of Markham's Environmental and Sustainability Committee and Ward 1 Councillor.

"Work done by existing advocacy groups such as FLAP Canada are an important resource as we move towards (bird-)wildlife-friendly design, and we encourage our members and the public to learn more about this topic."

Toon Dreessen, Architect, President, Ontario Association of Architects, FRAIC, AIA, LEED AP

“The City of Toronto and Flap Canada have had a positive collaboration on bird-friendly guidelines since 2007. This includes assessing bird and wildlife issues related to built form.”

Glenn De Baeremaeker, Deputy Mayor, East, City of Toronto.

\* Acknowledgements: BirdSafe building standards and risk assessment would not be possible without the input of many contributors. FLAP Canada is especially grateful to: Dr. Daniel Klem, Jr., Professor of Ornithology and Conservation Biology, Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania, U.S.; Dr. Bridget J. Stutchbury, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Stutchbury Lab, York University; and, John R. Carley, Architect, College of Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Photo Credit: Mark Peck, Ornithology Technician, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON

# About FLAP Canada

FLAP Canada is a registered Canadian charity working to safeguard migratory birds in the built environment through policy development, research, education, prevention, rescue and rehabilitation. Together with partners in governments, businesses and communities, our organization promotes bird-safe practices, and engages conservation-in-action. Since 1993, volunteers have recovered over 75,000 birds, including species at risk. FLAP Canada continues its commitment through BirdSafe® and other citizen science resources such as migration tracking and bird collision mapping.

**To donate, or learn more,**  
visit [www.flap.org](http://www.flap.org).

**To book a BirdSafe consultation,**  
visit [www.flap.org/birdsafe](http://www.flap.org/birdsafe),  
or contact [birdsafeflap.org](mailto:birdsafeflap.org).



## BirdSafe®

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