



Global Bird Rescue

Global Bird Rescue
GBR Team Manual

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What is Global Bird Rescue?

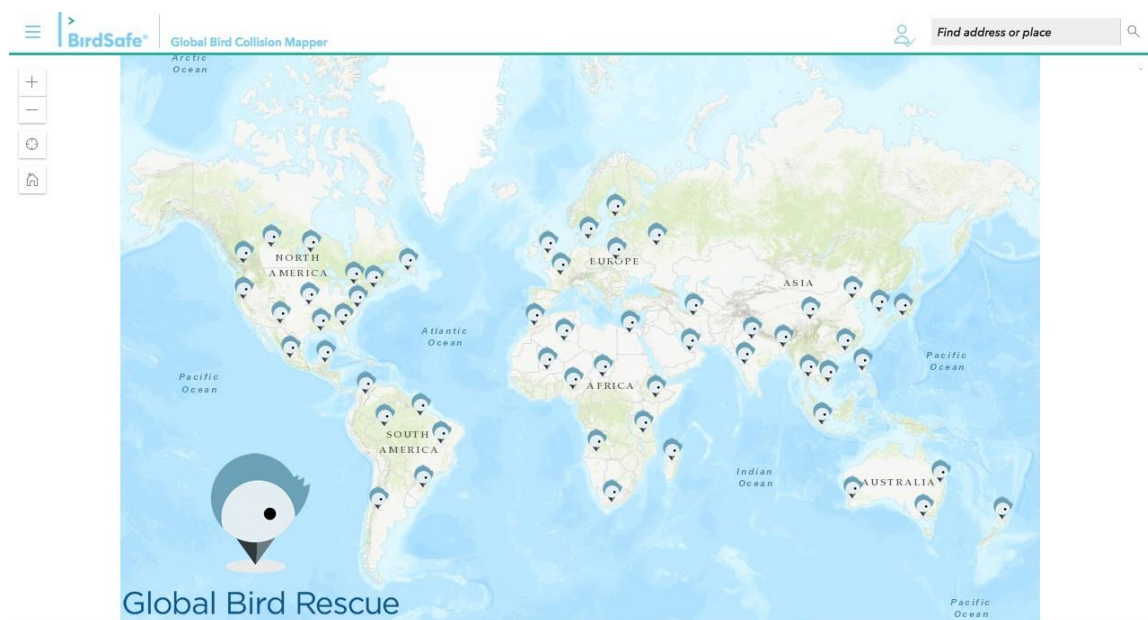
Global Bird Rescue is a FLAP Canada initiative that will bring the issue of bird- building collisions into the hands of the public. This weeklong event will bring communities together to search for fallen birds in their neighbourhood. Using the *Global Bird Collision Mapper*, participants will be able to report the location, status and species of the birds they recover, including the ability to upload a photo of each bird they report. This citizen science tool will show every collision reported on its interactive GIS map, providing invaluable data for a greater understanding of the bird-building collision issue.

Additionally, by encouraging people to search for birds, we hope to increase the chances of finding live birds sooner, thus increasing their chances for a successful rehabilitation/release.

September 30th through October 6th, teams and individuals will take to the streets and to social media to raise awareness about this critical issue.

Why does this matter?

An estimated 1 billion birds die each year colliding with buildings in North America alone. Data entered into the Global Bird Collision Mapper will help incentivize new policies designed to reduce bird-building collisions across the globe.



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Photo: M. Barber

About FLAP Canada

[FLAP Canada](#), a registered Canadian charity, is widely recognized as the pre-eminent authority on the bird-building collision issue. For over 25 years, FLAP Canada and a network of over 70 partners, thousands of supporters and many other nature organizations, have been devoted to keeping birds safe for the benefit of nature and people.



Our Mission

FLAP Canada is dedicated to safeguarding migratory birds in the built environment through education, policy development, research, rescue and rehabilitation.



Event Rules and Guidelines (in no particular order)

- Your safety first! Avoid attempting to access areas where you might risk injuring yourself.
- Be respectful of private property. FLAP Canada recommends you ask permission to patrol private sites.
- Take a picture of your bird! A photo can help identify the bird species, and help you remember exactly where you found it. Avoid taking pictures of members of the public, entire buildings and recognizable company logos.
- Do not chase an injured bird.
- Keep handling of live birds to a minimum.
- Unsure if a bird is injured? Take it to a local wildlife rehabilitation facility.
- Do not release a bird where you found it; instead find a park or ravine away from buildings that the bird could collide with.
- Be respectful towards wildlife. Do not take selfies with dead or injured birds.
- Enter all your collision reports on the *Global Bird Collision Mapper*. (birdmapper.org/app)



Roles of the participant

- All participants must register on the *Global Bird Collision Mapper* (birdmapper.org/app)
- Participants can stay as individuals or create a GBR Team by submitting the **“Create a Global Bird Collision Mapper Group”** form on globalbirdrescue.org, or filling out the **‘Group Request Form’** at the end of this document and sending it to mapper@flap.org
- GBR Teams are encouraged to engage and educate the public about the issue of bird-building collisions. This can be achieved through various social media tools:
 1. Use the official hashtag #GlobalBirdRescue
 2. Post photos of rescued birds on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook
 3. Share posts about the event from our Instagram (@flapcanada), Twitter (@FLAPCanada), and our Facebook page (Fatal Light Awareness Program Canada)



About the Global Bird Collision Mapper

The Global Bird Collision Mapper (GBCM) is an online geo-mapping tool designed for registered users to report the locations of bird collisions with buildings. The database is international and can be seen by anyone who visits it. GBCM is available at birdmapper.org/app and can be accessed via desktop and mobile.



Creating an Account


- Register an account using the  symbol in the top right corner

Reporting a Collision

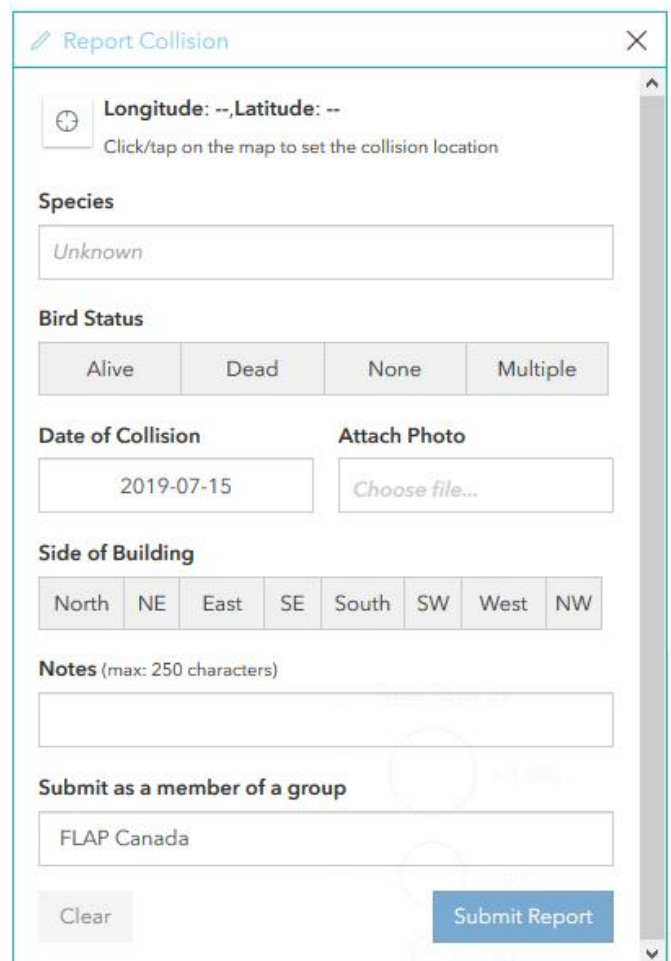
- Select the menu  in the top left corner
- Select Report a Collision

Reporting a Collision:

1. Select Location by either:
 - zooming in on the map and selecting the location
 - finding your current location using  the  symbol to the left of the site
 - typing in an address in the search bar at the top right of the site



2. Select the species (if known, can be left as unknown) by searching the common name
3. State the status of the bird as either alive, dead, none (sighted or escaped) or multiple
4. Select the date
5. Attach a photo of the bird found to aid in identification
6. Select the side of the building that the bird was found on.
7. You can also add notes and choose to submit as a member of a group you may be affiliated with or submit as an individual.



The screenshot shows the 'Report Collision' form with the following fields and options:

- Longitude: --, Latitude: --** with a location icon and the instruction 'Click/tap on the map to set the collision location'.
- Species:** A text input field containing 'Unknown'.
- Bird Status:** A row of four buttons: 'Alive', 'Dead', 'None', and 'Multiple'.
- Date of Collision:** A text input field containing '2019-07-15'.
- Attach Photo:** A button labeled 'Choose file...'.
- Side of Building:** A row of eight buttons: 'North', 'NE', 'East', 'SE', 'South', 'SW', 'West', and 'NW'.
- Notes (max: 250 characters):** A large text area.
- Submit as a member of a group:** A text input field containing 'FLAP Canada'.
- Clear** and **Submit Report** buttons at the bottom.

Issues? Frequently Asked Questions can be found at globalbirdrescue.org

How to Rescue Birds

Supplies

- Brown non-waxed paper lunch bags for smaller birds, grocery bags for larger birds.
- Clips to secure the bags (paper clips or butterfly clips).
- Tissue or paper towels.
- Butterfly net.
- Notebook to record collision data, or a phone to input collision data directly into the Global Bird Collision Mapper.

Searching for Birds

- Most birds will be found on the ground between 5 ft to 1.5m away from the building.
- Walk parallel to the frontage of a building and fairly close to the glass, if you startle a bird it will be more likely to fly parallel and away from glass.
- Check in nooks and crannies, injured birds may find a place to hide.

Catching a Bird

- Try to approach the bird from behind, provided the bird won't fly towards glass.
- Move deliberately, but slowly and carefully not to scare the bird.
- Do not chase birds, they may be scared into hitting glass.
- A stunned bird on the ground can be captured using your hands, or a net.
- Have a paper bag, with a tissue on the bottom ready to go, and gently place the bird inside, secure the bag. The bag does not need air holes, as non-waxed paper bags are breathable.
- Try to use banders grip if catching with your hands.

Tips for Banders Grip

The bird's neck is held between the index and middle finger with the beak facing out, the neck snug against the knuckles, and the birds back against the palm. The tip of the index and middle fingers are kept together with the fingers bent. Both wings should be tucked against your palm in a natural position. You do not want to hold the bird around the body, as you can impede the birds breathing. Allow the bird to perch on your little finger.

Please keep handling to a minimum and seek out an experienced individual to learn these techniques.



- If disoriented birds are flying close to a building, it is best to stand back while they settle.
- Occasionally birds of prey collide with buildings. Extreme caution and specialized equipment is needed to handle these birds. Call a wildlife rehabilitation center for help. A towel, blanket or box can be placed over the bird. It is best to keep an injured bird contained until rehabilitation help arrives.

Carrying and Transporting Birds

- In non-waxed paper bags, making sure the bottom of the bag is expanded with a flat bottom.
- Woodpecker species should be placed in a box.
- Place bags in a secure upright position as the birds may start to bounce inside them once they recover their strength, and bags may fall from where they are placed.

Stress

Birds are already experiencing stress from possible injury, dehydration or exhaustion. This stress can decrease the birds' chance of survival, we want to minimize this stress by doing the following:

- Talk quietly or not at all.
- Avoid direct eye contact with the bird.
- Avoid clothing with animal pictures.
- Avoid red or orange clothing.
- Keep handling to a minimum.
- Move the bird as little as possible.
- Keep it in a warm, dark and quiet place.
- Release or get to rehab as quickly as possible.
- When transporting a bird in a vehicle keep the radio off and keep the car quiet.

Signs of an overly-stressed bird include:

- Rapid to open-mouthed breathing.
- Shutting of one or both eyes.
- Making distress calls.
- Head drooping.
- Fluffed feathered appearance.

Trauma

Some of the birds may appear to be just stunned or have no obvious injuries; other times trauma is present. The following are evidence of trauma that would need to be assessed by a qualified and licensed wildlife rehabilitator:

- Head tilt.
- Inability to stand normally.
- No response to sound or visual movement.
- Not trying to escape (just sitting on a hand).
- Bulging “frog” eyes.
- Droopy eyes.
- Facial asymmetry (Sides of the face looking different from each other).
- Heavy/noisy/clicking/ open-beak breathing.
- Broken beak, leg or wing.
- Caught or entangled in spider webbing or human hair.
- Blood anywhere.

The best first aid is to keep the bird safe. Decrease stress by keeping them in a warm, dark and quiet environment and get them to a knowledgeable rehabilitator as soon as possible.

Tips and Resources

Dress appropriately for the season. It can be extremely cold and windy in the mid to late fall, so wear warm, layered clothing. Wear comfortable shoes as you may be doing a lot of walking. Quiet shoes are preferred, since they startle the birds less.

Please avoid red and orange clothing as these colours may be interpreted as aggressive by the birds. Wear clothing without animals on it - birds may see these as predators. A cap with a brim or bill may also be threatening to birds.

Bird Identification:

<http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>

<http://www.birdseyebirding.com/apps/birdseye/>

<http://www.birderslibrary.com/features/bird-apps-of-the-world.htm>

Find a wildlife rehabilitator:

http://wildliferehabinfo.org/ContactList_MnPg.htm

<http://www.owra.org/find-a-wildlife-rehabilitator>

<https://theiwrc.org/resources/emergency>

(FLAP Canada cannot endorse or recommend any of the links in the references; therefore, mention of specific links in this manual cannot be construed as an endorsement or recommendation. We recommend you thoroughly research any organization or individual.)

Group Request Form (please email to mapper@flap.org)

Group Name (this is exactly how you want it to appear on the Mapper)

List of members to add to the group (individuals must create their own account on the mapper and provide you with their username)

Group description (optional)

Please attach a jpeg of your organization's logo to go on our website.