

The Hazard of Reflective Windows

Chuck Aid July 8, 2020 :



Acopian BirdSavers

In the United States nearly one billion birds are estimated to die each year from hitting windows. By day, birds perceive reflections in glass as open sky that they can fly into. By night, migratory birds drawn by city lights are at high risk of colliding with buildings. Almost everyone living in the Evergreen area has had that experience of hearing the dull thud of having a bird hit one of our windows. Often, they can just be stunned briefly, and will eventually fly off with no apparent negative side effects. However, if they have hit too hard it can be deadly.



So, what can we do to help birds avoid these collisions? Somehow, we need to make our windows visible to the birds. Birds will avoid glass that has patterns. We can start by closing blinds, putting up screens, placing feeders at least 30 feet from windows, or very close – within 3 feet, to minimize a bird's momentum, or taking a Uni Posca Marker (PC-3M Paint Glass Pen Fine Bullet Tip 1.3mm White) and drawing vertical lines on your windows about four inches apart. The lines can be removed, if need be, with the edge of a credit card.

Products and suggestions about breaking up the reflections using film, tape, or string can be found at the following websites:

Acopian BirdSavers (Zen Wind Curtains) – <https://www.birdsavers.com>,

Acrylite Soundstop Bird Guard Sheet – <https://www.acrylite.co/specialty-products/soundstop.html>

ABC BirdTape – <https://www.collidescape.org/abc-birdtape>

Artscape Bird Deflectors, <https://artscape-inc.com/collections/birds>

Bird Crash Preventer – <http://stores.santarosanational.com>

White Collidescape – <https://www.collidescape.org>

Feather Friendly Window Markers – <https://www.conveniencegroup.com/featherfriendly/feather-friendly/>

GlasPro BirdSafe Glass – <http://www.glas-pro.com/products/glas-pro-bird-glass/>

Ornilux Bird Protection Glass – <http://www.ornilux.com>

Solyx Bird Safety Window Films – <https://www.decorativefilm.com/specialty-bird-safety>

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If you elect to try one of the methods or products suggested above, please let us know about your experience and how successful you feel you've been in creating a safer environment for the birds around

your house or business. Contact Chuck Aid at birdmon@evergreenaudubon.org with any questions or thoughts.