



## Keeping Birds Safe from Collisions with Buildings



### **Did you know that research estimates 25 million birds die from colliding with windows every year in Canada?**

This is especially a problem during spring and fall migration as birds have no understanding of glass. If not killed outright, an injured bird is an easy target for predators. Windows or glass railings often deceive birds since trees, sky, and houseplants reflected in windows or a view straight through a building may appear as an unobstructed flight path.

### **So what can you do if a bird collides with a window at your home or workplace?**

- If the bird is **injured** place it inside an unwaxed paper bag or cardboard box secured with a lid to keep it safe from cats & other predators. Then call Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation (306-281-0554) to make arrangements for the bird to go to the rehabilitation centre. Do not provide food or water, and keep the bird in a quiet location away from people and pets.
- If the bird has **died** from hitting the window, please take it to the Wild Birds Unlimited store at 330A 2600 8th Street East, or call them and arrange for someone to pick it up. (306-955-2473)
- **Report all bird collisions** (especially where the bird flew away) to Wild Birds Unlimited, Saskatoon, by phone (306-955-2473) or in person at the store. This data will provide more information about the situation in the Saskatoon area.



### **How do you make your home safe for birds?**

- Put visual cues on your windows so the birds see the glass; decorative decals, pre-spaced dots, or screening all make your window “visible” to the birds.
- Plant some native trees, shrubs and perennials in your yard. This will provide shelter and food for birds. Keep cats indoors.
- Position bird feeders and bird baths close to windows (0.5 metres or less).
- Move houseplants away from windows.
- Turn porch lights and unused room lights off at night. Birds can be attracted to light and see lit windows as tunnels. (Use a motion sensor light for safety concerns).
- Identify which of your windows presents the greatest risk to birds by using a residential self-assessment tool found at <https://birdsafe.ca/homeowner-self-assessment/>.
- More information about bird-safe window design can be found at <https://birdsafe.ca/>. There are also commercial products available such as “feather friendly” residential tape and CollidEscape Products and ABC Bird Tape. Local suppliers include Wild Birds Unlimited, 330A 2600 8th St East.

### **For more information contact:**

- Wild Birds Unlimited <https://saskatoon.wbu.com/>
- Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation <http://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/>
- Saskatoon Nature Society <http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/>
- **BirdSafe.ca is led by FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program) Canada.** FLAP Canada, a registered Canadian charity, is widely recognized as the pre-eminent authority on the bird-building collision issue. <https://www.flap.org/>

