



Reducing Bird-Window Collisions

Daytime Strategies

The problem:

- Window collisions cause an estimated 600 million bird deaths every year in the United States.
- Bird populations have declined by 29% since 1970.
- This decline includes common birds like the Baltimore Oriole, Wood Thrush, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Why it happens:

- Reflective glass - birds see trees and shrubs reflected in windows and mistake them for the real thing. Any glass can be reflective, not only mirrored glass.
- Transparent glass - birds see trees or other plants through windows and are injured or killed while trying to fly to that vegetation. Glass-enclosed pedestrian walkways and plants visible inside buildings are equally confusing for birds.
- Exterior lighting - see Lights Out fact sheet for more information.

Solutions for both residential and commercial properties:

- Close blinds or shades, then check to see if the blinds or shades are visible from outside. Window reflectivity changes as the sun moves throughout the day.
- Install exterior window screens.
- Apply patterned tape or decals to the outside of windows. Many products are available online; see resources, below.
- Murals and other whole-window treatments provide a visual cue for birds as well as creating an aesthetically pleasing view for humans.
- Acopian bird savers, also called zen curtains, can be an attractive and cost-effective measure on low-rise buildings. Find more information in resources, below.
- Placement of landscaping and bird feeders - safer zones for birds are within 3 feet of a structure or at least 30 feet from the structure.
- Bird-safe glass, best utilized in the design phase or when windows need to be replaced.
- Every step helps. As the National Audubon Society says, YOU are what hope looks like to a bird!
- Commercial properties: request free surveying by BirdSafeKC to determine which windows will most benefit from treatment.

Resources:

BirdSafeKC <https://www.birdsafekc.org/>
Missouri River Bird Observatory <https://mrbo.org/>
Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater Kansas City <https://burroughs.org/>
3 billion birds <https://abcbirds.org/3-billion-birds/>

American Bird Conservancy <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>
Acopian Bird Savers <https://www.birdsavers.com/>
Patterned tape <https://www.featherfriendly.com/>
Lights Out Heartland <https://www.lightsouthheartland.org/>

BirdSafeKC is a partnership between:

