

NEWS BULLETIN

FLAP Canada helps keep birds safe while celebrating migratory bird milestones

Charity unveils bird-safe standards and service offering

Toronto, 13 May, 2016 – Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada announces BirdSafe®, building standards and risk assessments that evaluate the attraction and threat factors influencing bird-building collisions.

“Our goal is to highlight the importance of deploying bird-safe standards and practices that help mitigate bird-building impacts,” states Michael Measure, Executive Director, FLAP Canada. Measure adds, “With Spring bird migration in full swing around the world, we can’t think of better timing to inform government, city planners, architects, designers and other commercial interests that we have solutions to the bird-building collision threat.”

What also makes this year especially significant is that 2016 also marks the centennial of Canada-U.S. bird conservation; the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty in 1916 between Great Britain (acting on behalf of Canada) and the U.S.

Migratory birds, like bees, provide environmental benefits such as pollination and seed dispersal. They also help reduce population levels of insects and rodents without harmful effects of chemical dispersants. Finally, they are key indicators of the overall health of our ecosystems.

Measure further adds, “Migratory birds connect people with spirituality and the beauty of our natural world. Not only do they inspire birders, outdoor enthusiasts and artists, they provide opportunity for engineers, architects and inventors to design and plan our built environments to bring beauty into that space. We want the beauty of those built environments to also be bird safe. Our objective BirdSafe® standards were designed by bird experts who specialize in the bird-building collision problem—ornithologists, researchers and architects alike.”

Make it bird safe!

Besides suffering effects from cat attacks, habitat loss and climate change, barrier effects are causing mortality in the millions. Every year, millions of migratory birds struggle with the massive expansion of infrastructure and built urban environments. If certain bird-safe practices are deployed without proper planning, design and risk assessment, it can pose a grave threat to migratory bird species.

Quotes

“We have witnessed in the past few years significant progress towards bird-friendly design strategies, including the development of bird-friendly design guidelines and policies, however, we believe it is important to work with all stakeholders and experts, including architects, to produce a single province-wide standard for bird-friendly design which could be incorporated into the Ontario Building Code, ensuring efficacy, feasibility and consistency across the province.”—Open letter from Toon Dreessen, Architect OAA, FRAIC, AIA, LEED AP, President, Ontario Association of Architects

Facts

Canada seasonally hosts approximately 450 species of birds, the majority of which are protected under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994*.

FLAP Canada estimates the number of migrating birds killed in North America annually in collisions with buildings range from 100 million to 1 billion birds, and has recovered over 75,000 birds from 170 species from building collisions in the Greater Toronto Area alone since 1993.

About FLAP Canada

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada works to safeguard migratory birds in built environments through education, policy development, research, rescue and rehabilitation. Together with partners, local governments, businesses and communities, FLAP Canada reaches thousands of people each year to inform and promote bird-safe practices, and engage conservation-in-action. Since 1993, FLAP has recovered over 75,000 birds, including species at risk. Beginning as a grassroots bird-safe community organization, FLAP Canada continues its commitment with citizen science resources such as live migratory tracking, a web-based mapper to report bird collisions and BirdSafe®. FLAP Canada is a not-for-profit registered charity.

To learn more, visit www.flap.org and @FLAPCanada.

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