HOMES SAFE FOR BIRDS

Windows are everywhere – in our houses, cottages, condos, apartments, even balconies. Unfortunately, birds that make their homes in meadows, woods or wetlands have no concept of glass. This is especially true for birds migrating during spring and fall. For them, glass can be deadly.

Most people have experienced the heartbreaking thud of a bird hitting a window. Researchers estimate that over one billion birds die in North America annually from window collisions.

Windows deceive birds. Reflected trees or sky, a tempting potted plant seen through glass, or a view straight through the building or glass balcony railing can trick birds into thinking that they can sail through to the other side. Birds that do not die on impact can go into shock, becoming easy prey for predators such as cats.
Found an injured bird?
Should a bird hit your window, gently place it inside an unwaxed paper bag or cardboard box firmly secured. Make sure the bird remains upright (you can create a donut out of tissue for it to sit in). Place it in a quiet location away from people and pets. Do not give the bird food or water. Contact your local wildlife rehabilitator for further instructions.

Report bird collisions
If you find a bird that has hit a window, record the incident on the Global Building Collision Mapper, a citizen-science global mapping database at mapper.flap.org.

Assess your windows
To determine which windows in your home need immediate attention to prevent bird collisions and which windows are less of a threat, take the BirdSafe® Homeowner Self-Assessment by visiting birdsafe.ca/homeowner-self-assessment/.

Take the pledge
As part of FLAP Canada’s campaign to protect migratory birds, we ask that you Act to Keep Birds Safe at birdsafe.ca/pledge/.
You can take *simple, effective* measures to help keep birds safe

Be creative by treating your glass like a canvas. Here are some attractive and cost-effective techniques.

> **Bird-Safe Design**

*Uniformly cover* the outside of windows with a contrasting pattern of any shape, keeping these visual markers no more than 10 cm (4 inches) apart vertically or 5 cm (2 inches) horizontally. To help keep smaller birds such as hummingbirds and warblers safe, a window must have no reflective openings larger than 5 x 5 cm (2 X 2 inches).

> **Draw patterns**

on the outside of your windows with a bar of soap or window paint. You may need to repeat this after a rainfall.

> **Hang ribbons**

or strings on the outside of your windows 10 cm (4 inches) apart.
Apply bird-deterrent film on the outside of your windows.

Install externally mounted window screens using window mounts or suction cups. Leave your screens up year round.

Position your bird feeders and birdbaths half a metre (1.5 feet) or less from your windows. Over this short distance, birds cannot build up enough momentum to injure themselves should they hit your window. The closer the feeder to your window, the better for the birds and your viewing!

When replacing your windows or custom-building your new home, consider investing in bird-deterrent glass products. Visit birdsafe.ca/workplacessafe-for-birds/.
For more information: birdsafe.ca

- Protect your cat & wildlife from harm by keeping your cat indoors. Visit keepanimalssafe.ca. The image on the panel to the left captures 3 important messages: cats indoors, bird-safe markers applied to windows and bird feeders close to windows.

- At home and at work, turn off all unused interior lights and remove exterior decorative lighting during migration seasons.

- Move houseplants away from your windows and install blinds to be drawn during the day with slats turned open.

About FLAP Canada
The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada is a registered charity (CRA# 14074 6736 RR0001) working to safeguard migratory birds in the built environment through education, policy development, research, rescue and rehabilitation. Together with partners in governments, businesses and communities, our organization promotes bird-safe practices. To learn more or donate, contact flap@flap.org or visit birdsafe.ca.

\( \text{CEDAR WAXWING EATING SERVICEBERRY FRUIT} \)

- Plant native trees, shrubs and flowering plants in your yard to provide food and nesting areas for birds. Visit nanps.org for tips.