



# HOMES SAFE FOR BIRDS

25 YEARS 1993 • 2018  
SAVING BIRD SPECIES



F L A P

*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.

**Bird/Window Collisions**

## 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](http://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 [birdsafeca.com/homeowner-self-assessment/](http://birdsafeca.com/homeowner-self-assessment/).



PHOTOGRAPH BY FLAP CANADA

CREATIVE SOLUTION TO WINDOW COLLISIONS DONE WITH TEMPERA PAINT

## Take the pledge

As part of FLAP Canada's campaign to protect migratory birds, we ask that you Act to Keep Birds Safe at [birdsafeca.com/pledge/](http://birdsafeca.com/pledge/).

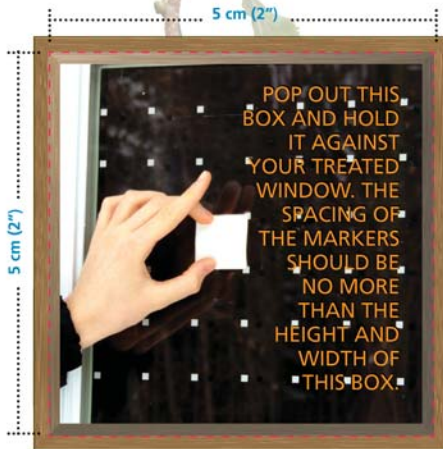


## You can take *simple, effective* measures to help keep birds safe

*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)



▲ FEATHER FRIENDLY® RESIDENTIAL TAPE

▼ ACOPIAN BIRDSAVERS

➤ *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.



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).

◀ SOLYX WINDOW FILM



# Saving Birds

➤ *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.

▼ BIRD SCREEN



▲ AVIPROTEK GLASS

➤ *When replacing your windows or custom-building your new home, consider investing in bird-deterrent glass products. Visit [birdsafecanada.ca/workplaces-safe-for-birds/](https://birdsafecanada.ca/workplaces-safe-for-birds/).*

➤ *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!



For more information: [birdsafeca.ca](http://birdsafeca.ca)

➤ *Protect your cat & wildlife* from harm by keeping your cat indoors. Visit [keepanimalsafe.ca](http://keepanimalsafe.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.



▲ 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](http://nanps.org) for tips.

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### 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](mailto:flap@flap.org) or visit [birdsafeca.ca](http://birdsafeca.ca).

PHOTOGRAPH © CAROLL EDWARDS

Welcoming Birds