COLLISIONS WITH BUILDINGS IS A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH TO MIGRATORY BIRDS

# FLAP
## CANADA

Working to Create a 24-Hour Collision-Free Environment for Bird Species

THIS IS NOT A BIRD DETERRENT. To learn why, www.flap.org

**Have you heard that deadly thump on a window?**

Countless buildings (including houses, condominiums, industrial, and commercial complexes) are potential sites for bird collisions. According to bird biologists, anywhere from one to ten birds will hit each building every year. Multiply these numbers by the number of buildings across North America and the issue takes on astronomical proportions.

Hundreds of bird species migrate at night. On clear, moonlit nights, they will often fly at high altitudes and, consequently, avoid possible obstructions. But artificial lights from human civilization can confuse them, especially on foggy, rainy nights or when cloud cover is low. Then they may fly toward lit structures such as skyscrapers and lighthouses. Even spotlights can "entrap" birds: they fly into the beams of light, unwilling to fly out again. Exhausted, they fall to the ground. Many birds that collide with lit structures are killed outright. Those that are injured or exhausted become easy prey to scavengers like raccoons.

During the day, migratory birds can find themselves trapped in a maze of windows. The concept of glass is foreign to them as their natural environment is a forest or meadow. They do not *see* glass. The reflectivity or transparency of glass creates a lethal illusion for billions of birds worldwide. Those that do not die upon impact go into shock, falling prey to cats, gulls, and other scavengers or get crushed underfoot.

FLAP Canada is a charitable organization that relies on donations from supporters like you to continue our work to safeguard birds. *Please give generously today.*

I wish to make a donation to FLAP Canada to help save migratory birds.
I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of:

☐ $25   ☐ $50   ☐ $100   ☐ Other $ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov./State: _____ Postal Code: _____
E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Please make cheque payable to FLAP Canada.
You will receive two issues per year of the newsletter *Touching Down*. Thank you!

# FLAP to the rescue

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada was the first organization in the world to address the issue of bird collisions with buildings and find solutions to this conservation issue. Since 1993, FLAP volunteers have picked up tens of thousands of collision victims in the Toronto region alone from over 160 species, including Species at Risk like the Canada Warbler and Eastern Meadowlark. About 40% of these birds were recovered alive, documented, and released back into the wild. Deceased birds were documented then given to the Royal Ontario Museum for research and educational purposes. FLAP's website provides advice to countless individuals who have witnessed a bird hit a window. FLAP Canada has inspired numerous bird advocates to create similar initiatives in their cities like those found in Chicago, New York, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Bird rescue is only one aspect of our work. Thanks to partnerships with many sectors of society, from architects, building managers and owners to municipal governments, FLAP Canada has developed leading-edge programs and policies that help to protect bird species from the threat of building collisions. Our dedication to bird preservation has placed bird collisions with buildings on the wildlife conservation map. In 2010, for example, the City of Toronto launched the *Toronto Green Standard*, which requires bird-friendly elements to be incorporated into almost all new development in Toronto.

# What you can do to help

## Losses we cannot afford

Birds play a critical role ecologically by consuming billions of insects and dispersing seeds which ensures biodiversity. From representing symbols of freedom to inspiring us in spirituality, art, and aviation, birds capture our imagination. Birds also generate billions of dollars through the bird-watching industry.

> UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing will get better. It's not.
> *– The Lorax by Dr. Seuss*

IT'S THE LAW: Owners and managers of buildings whose windows cause death or injury to birds are violating s. 14 of the Ontario *Environmental Protection Act*, as well as s. 32 of the federal *Species at Risk Act* where death or injury occurs to threatened or endangered species.

## *Bird Safe*® Buildings

To prevent bird collisions during the day, control the reflectivity and transparency of glass by using external window treatments such as film, fritting, grillwork, and a variety of other methods. Visit www.flap.org to learn more about these and other techniques that will help to make your home and workplace *Bird Safe*®.

Turn off lights at night in unoccupied spaces. If you are working late, use task lighting at work stations, and draw blinds or curtains. Turn off all exterior floodlights during bird migration seasons.

FLAP Canada has developed *Bird Safe*® Building Standards and provides consulting on how to meet these standards.

**GREAT LAKES LIGHTS OUT INITIATIVE** Advocate for your city or town to join the *Lights Out!* movement similar to *Lights Out Toronto!* and *Lights Out Chicago!*

*Bird Safe*® is a registered trademark of the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada .

# If you find a bird

If you find a bird that has hit a building, gently place the bird inside an unwaxed paper bag or small cardboard box with tissue or a paper towel inside to give the bird something to perch on. Do not handle the bird more than necessary. Make sure the bird is sitting upright to aid respiration. If the bird is leaning to one side, make a donut-shape using tissue or a paper towel and place the bird in the centre. Do not give the bird food or water. Call your local wildlife rehabilitation centre for further instructions.

**FLAP CANADA'S MISSION:**

**Working to safeguard migratory birds in the urban environment through education, research, rescue, and rehabilitation.**

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