

Bird Window Collision Monitoring-Survey Protocol

Required Supplies

1. Cell phone
2. Field clipboard with building maps, data sheets, and writing supplies
3. Zip lock bags (small and large), disposable gloves, pre-cut bird ID tags
4. Small cooler w/ ice pack to temporarily carry carcasses found during surveys
5. Hand sanitizer
6. Rescue supplies, including nets, unwaxed paper bags (small and large), unscented Kleenex or paper towels, and binder clips. Rescue bags should be pre-packed for ease of use.

** Double-check you have all required supplies prior to initiating your survey. Report any damaged or missing equipment or supplies to the Survey Coordinator.*

During the Survey

- Width of transect from building wall is ~6' (or just beyond width of your arms held out horizontal to the ground). Make two independent passes around each building. Working in pairs, stagger the start time by 2 minutes so that workers are not walking together, and each worker completes one independent pass.
- Watch where you are stepping and tread carefully as birds may have fallen where you are walking. Search the top, inside, and on the ground around all shrubs. Sift thoroughly within thick ground cover, such as ivy.
- If a dead bird is found, put on disposable gloves before handling, and take pictures of all whole or partial carcasses from these perspectives: dorsal (the back), ventral (the belly), and lateral (wings and side of head). Place the carcass in a zip lock bag.
- Birds that are in deep shock can appear to be dead. If you pick up a bird that is still warm, place it in a paper bag to be cautious, and check on it after an hour. If a live bird is found, refer to the live bird protocol.
- Fill in bird ID tags and place in an outer zip lock bag along with the bagged carcass. When done handling bird, remove gloves, and use hand sanitizer.
- For hard copy data sheets, complete these immediately after a building survey regardless of whether a carcass was found.

Immediately After the Survey

- Bring properly labelled bird carcasses to _____ and deposit into designated fridge/freezer and return supplies.
- Transcribe data from hard copy data sheets onto online Google Docs spreadsheet. Be sure to include data for buildings where no birds were found.

- Send all photos to the Survey Coordinator.
- Once species identifications have been confirmed by the Survey Coordinator, upload observation and one representative photo to FLAP's Global Bird Collision Mapper within 24 hours.

Live Bird Protocol

- You might find a stunned bird on the ground, seemingly unable to fly. Or you may find a bird alive but with obvious serious injuries. This can be upsetting but the bird's safety, and yours, is paramount. Not all injured birds can be saved. If possible, the Survey Coordinator will transport the injured bird to a wildlife rehabilitator.
- If the injured bird you find is larger than a dove, or is a raptor, call the Survey Coordinator. It is not safe to handle large birds yourself.
- If you do not feel comfortable attempting to handle or rescue a small bird, then do not do so. Call the Survey Coordinator for instructions.
- If you find a stunned or injured songbird, stand away from the bird as you prepare your rescue supplies. Find a paper bag of a sufficient size for the bird, and line with paper towel or Kleenex rolled into a tight log. Have your binder clip ready to seal the bag. One volunteer will stand back with the rescue supplies ready, while the other volunteer will put on disposable gloves before rescuing the bird.
- Approach the bird from behind, moving deliberately and quickly, but carefully. Use both hands to gently cover the bird, being careful not to leave your fingers open so the bird can escape. The bird may vocalize or try to flutter once caught. Expect this, stay calm, and don't be alarmed.
- If using a net, approach the bird in the same way, being careful not to hit the bird with the net's rim. Once the bird is under the net, you may put your hand under the net and grasp the bird in the bander's grip. Make sure that the bird's toenails are not caught in the net, and if they are unhook them very gently without pulling on the bird's foot.
- Small birds are very fragile. You should not close your fingers or hand tightly around their body. It should feel like you are gently holding onto a cotton ball.
- Place the bird upright in the paper bag, being careful not to let it escape as you remove your hands. Carefully seal the bag with a binder clip. Remove gloves and use hand sanitizer.
- Immediately contact the Survey Coordinator by phone for next steps.
- If Survey Coordinator cannot be reached:
 - [DOCUMENT ALTERNATE CONTACTS OR NEXT STEPS]

Other Important Information

Survey Coordinator Contact Info

Name:

E-mail:

Phone Number:

Nearest Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility

Name:

Location:

Hours of Operation:

Phone Number: