



Global Bird Rescue

Global Bird Rescue GBR
Team Manual

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What is Global Bird Rescue?

Global Bird Rescue is a FLAP Canada initiative that will bring the issue of bird-building collisions into the hands of the public worldwide. This week-long event will bring communities together to search for fallen birds in their neighbourhoods and motivate participants to protect birds by treating windows with effective bird collision deterrent applications.

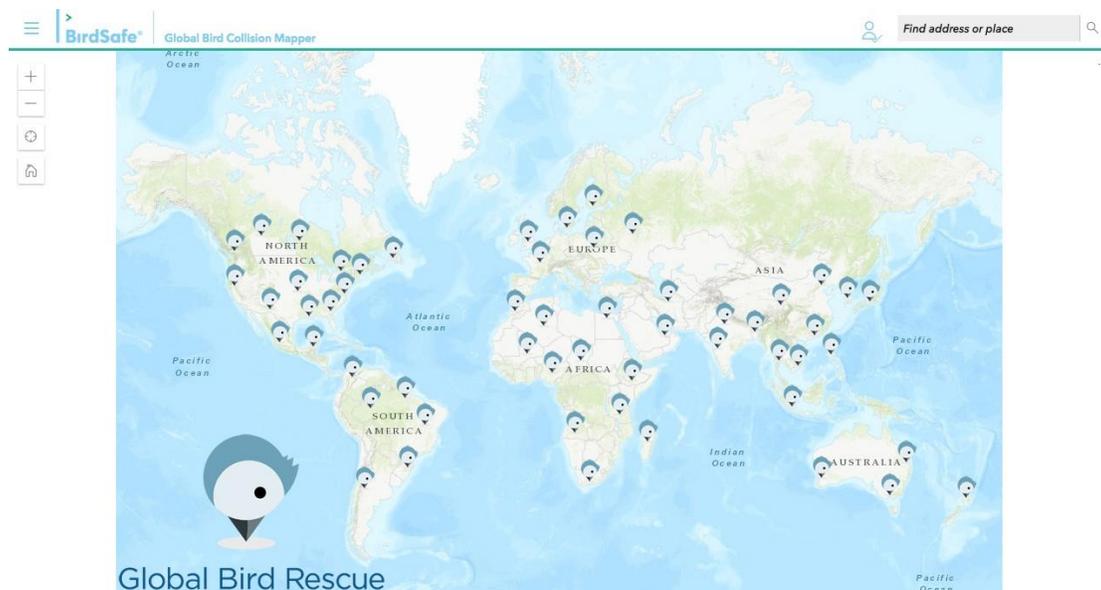
Using the *Global Bird Collision Mapper*, participants will be able to report the location, status and species of the birds they rescue or recover, including the ability to upload a photo of each bird. This community science tool will show every collision reported on its interactive GIS map in real time, providing invaluable data for a greater understanding of the bird-building collision issue.

Additionally, by encouraging people to search for birds, we hope to increase the chances of finding live birds sooner, thus increasing their chances for a successful rehabilitation /release.

From October 5th through 11th 2020, teams and individuals will take to the streets and to social media to raise awareness about this leading cause of bird deaths across the globe.

Why does this matter?

An estimated 1 billion birds die each year colliding with buildings in North America alone. Data entered into the Global Bird Collision Mapper will help incentivize new policies and laws designed to reduce bird-building collisions worldwide.



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About FLAP Canada



[FLAP Canada](#), a registered Canadian charity, is widely recognized as the pre-eminent authority on the bird-building collision issue. For over 25 years, FLAP Canada and a network of over 70 partners, thousands of supporters and numerous nature organizations, have been devoted to keeping birds safe for the benefit of nature and people.

Our Mission

FLAP Canada is dedicated to safeguarding migratory birds in the built environment through education, policy development, research, rescue and rehabilitation.



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Event Guidelines

- Your safety first! Avoid attempting to access areas where you might risk injuring yourself.
- Be respectful of private property. FLAP Canada recommends you ask permission to patrol private sites.
- Take a picture of your bird! A photo can help identify the bird species, and help you remember exactly where you found it. Avoid taking pictures of members of the public, entire buildings and recognizable company logos.
- Do not chase an injured bird.
- Keep handling of live birds to a minimum.
- Unsure if a bird is injured? Take it to a local wildlife rehabilitation facility (find helpful links in the “Resources” section).
- Do not release a bird where you found it; instead find a park, ravine, or natural area away from buildings that the bird could collide with.
- Be respectful towards wildlife. Do not take selfies with dead or injured birds.
- Enter all your collision reports on the *Global Bird Collision Mapper*. (birdmapper.org/app)
- Please be aware of suggestions and recommendations from your local Government and Health Care providers. If you are recommended to stay home to prevent the spread of Covid-19, consider monitoring your home or apartment building for bird collisions instead of venturing out into public spaces.



Roles of the participant

- All participants must register on the *Global Bird Collision Mapper* (birdmapper.org/app)
- Participants can stay as individuals or create a GBR Team by submitting the “**GBR Team Registration Form**” on globalbirdrescue.org or by emailing us at mapper@flap.org.
- GBR Teams are encouraged to engage and educate the public about the issue of bird-building collisions. This can be achieved through various social media tools:
 1. Use the official hashtag #GlobalBirdRescue
 2. Post photos of rescued birds on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook
 3. Share posts about the event from our Instagram (@flapcanada), Twitter (@FLAPCanada), and our Facebook page (Fatal Light Awareness Program Canada)
- Participants are responsible for the safety of all birds in their care, and for following local laws and guidelines surrounding the handling of wildlife.
- Please make sure your collision reports are entered promptly and as accurately as possible
- When referring to your team on social media or during media interviews, be sure to describe yourself as “GBR Team – [Team Name]”



About the Global Bird Collision Mapper

The [Global Bird Collision Mapper \(GBCM\)](#) is an online geo-mapping tool designed for registered users to report the locations of bird collisions with buildings and is available on desktop and mobile devices. The database is international and can be seen by anyone who visits it.

Creating an Account

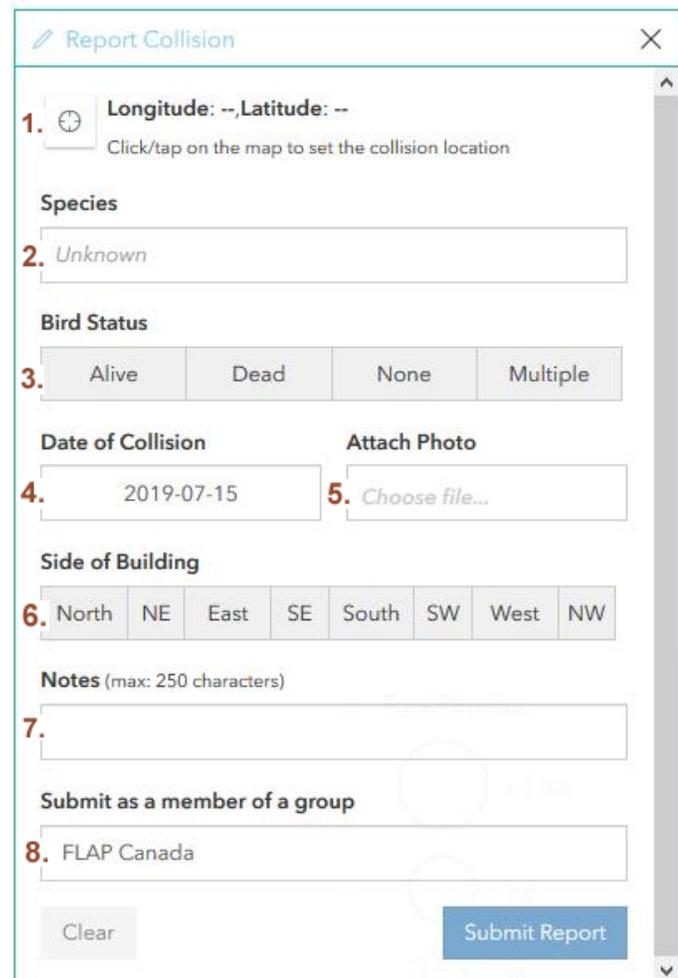
- Register an account using the  symbol in the top right corner

Reporting a Collision

- Select the menu  in the top left corner
- Select *Report a Collision*

1. Select location by either:
 - zooming in on the map and selecting the desired location by using the + or – icons on the left side of the map
 - finding your current location using 
 - typing in an address in the search bar at the top right of the site
2. Search for the species by its common name and click on it when it pops up. If you don't know the species, leave this field 'Unknown'.
3. State the status of the bird as either alive (rescued/sighted/escaped), dead, none (no birds found at all) or multiple
4. Select the date
5. Attach a photo to aid in identification
6. Select the side of the building where the bird was found
7. Optional: include detailed field notes.
8. You can choose to submit your records as a member of a group or as an individual.

If targeting buildings in your community is a concern for you, you can select the middle of the closest intersection for the collision location instead of the exact building address.



The screenshot shows the 'Report Collision' form with the following fields and options:

- 1.** Longitude: --, Latitude: -- (with a map icon and instruction: 'Click/tap on the map to set the collision location')
- 2.** Species:
- 3.** Bird Status: Alive Dead None Multiple
- 4.** Date of Collision:
- 5.** Attach Photo:
- 6.** Side of Building: North NE East SE South SW West NW
- 7.** Notes (max: 250 characters):
- 8.** Submit as a member of a group:

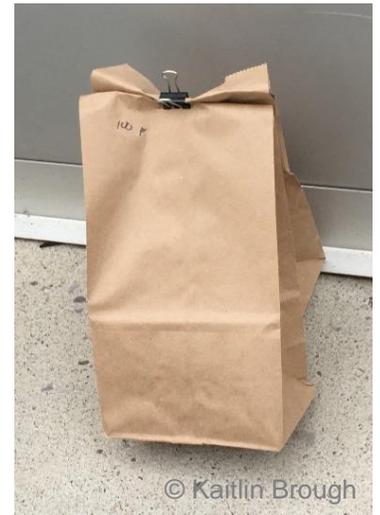
Buttons: Clear, Submit Report

Issues? Frequently Asked Questions can be found at globalbirdrescue.org

How to Rescue Birds

Supplies

- Brown non-waxed paper lunch bags for smaller birds, grocery bags or boxes for larger birds.
- Clips to secure the bags.
- Tissue or paper towels to line the bag and give something for the bird to grip with its feet.
- Butterfly net to catch birds if needed.
- Notebook to record collision data, or a phone to input collision data directly into the Global Bird Collision Mapper.
- Camera to take photos of downed birds for identification purposes.
- Phone numbers of local wildlife rehabilitation centres.
- Masks and other Covid-19 protection if recommended in your area.
- Dress appropriately for the season.



Searching for Birds

- Most birds will be found on the ground up to 1.5m (5ft) from the base of a building.
- Walk close and parallel to the building façade. This way, if you startle a bird, it will tend to fly parallel to and away from the building.
- Check in nooks and crannies, injured birds may find a place to hide.

Catching a Bird

- Try to approach the bird from behind making sure to walk parallel to the façade.
- Move deliberately, but slowly and carefully not to scare the bird.
- Do not chase birds.
- A stunned bird on the ground can be captured using your hands, or a net.
- Have a paper bag ready to go with a tissue on the bottom, gently place the bird inside and secure the bag shut. The bag does not need air holes provided you are using non-waxed paper bags.
- Try to use banders grip if catching with your hands.

Tips for Banders Grip

The bird's neck is held between the index and middle finger with the beak facing out, the neck snug against the knuckles, and the birds back against the palm. The tip of the index and middle fingers are kept together with the fingers bent. Both wings should be tucked against your palm in a natural position. You do not want to hold the bird around the body, as you can impede the birds breathing. Allow the bird to perch on your little finger. Keep handling to a minimum. Perhaps seek out an experienced individual to learn these techniques.



- If disoriented birds are flying close to a building, it is best to stand back until they settle.
- Occasionally birds of prey collide with buildings. Extreme caution and specialized equipment is needed when handling injured birds of prey. Call a wildlife rehabilitation center for help. A towel, blanket or box can be placed over the bird until help arrives.

Carrying and Transporting Birds

- In non-waxed paper bags, making sure the bottom of the bag is expanded with a flat bottom.
- Woodpecker species should be placed in a box.
- Place bags in a secure upright position.
- Do not provide the bird with food or water.

Stress

Birds are already experiencing stress from possible injury, dehydration or exhaustion. This stress can decrease the birds' chance of survival. To minimize stress, we suggest the following:

- Talk quietly or not at all.
- Avoid direct eye contact with the bird.
- Avoid red or orange clothing.
- Keep handling to a minimum.
- Move the bird as little as possible.
- Keep it in a warm, dark and quiet place when contained.
- Release the bird or transport the bird to rehab as quickly as possible.
- When transporting a bird in a vehicle keep the radio off and keep the car quiet.
- Wear comfortable soft-sole shoes to help reduce sound.

Signs of an overly stressed bird include:

- Rapid to open-mouthed breathing
- Shutting of one or both eyes.
- Making distress calls.
- Head drooping.
- Fluffed feathered appearance.

Trauma

Birds can often appear to have no obvious injuries. An injured bird can also appear to be dead. To assure no injuries are missed, look for the following signs of trauma:

- Head tilt
- Head drooping
- Droopy eyes
- Inability to perch
- No response to sound or visual movement
- Not trying to escape (just sitting on a hand)
- Bulging “frog” eye(s)
- Facial asymmetry (sides of the face looking different from each other)
- Heavy, noisy, clicking or open-beak breathing
- Broken beak, wing or leg
- Drooping wing
- Entangled in spider webbing and loss debris such as human hair, thread or string
- Bleeding

If any of these signs of trauma are present, help decrease the bird’s stress by keeping it in a warm, dark and quiet environment, and have the bird assessed by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

Laws and Regulations

There are laws in place to protect migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. In Canada we have the *Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA), and the United States has the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*. These laws are the result of a treaty between Canada and the U.S dating back to 1917.

Under the MBCA, a citizen without a permit is prohibited from possessing a migratory bird, or nest, or buying/selling/exchanging a migratory bird or nest. This includes migratory birds that are found already dead. A full list of Birds that are protected in Canada under the MBCA can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-birds-legal-protection/convention-act.html>

The full Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994, can be found here: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/> . It is the regulations to the Act that are of particular importance. See, for example, the permit requirement in s.5 and the prohibition against harming nests in s. 6. The U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which takes a different approach, can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php>

We strongly recommend you research the laws in your own country on the possession and rehabilitation of wildlife.

Under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*, it is an offence to kill or harm a listed species. The same prohibition exists under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*. As well, under Ontario's *Environmental Protection Act*, it is an offence to kill or harm a bird by discharging a contaminant, including such contaminants as reflections of light from windows that lead to lethal or injurious window collisions.

What does this mean for rescuing wild birds?

We recommend researching and locating your closest wildlife rehabilitation facility before going out to participate in GBR. That way, should you find an injured bird (which is very likely) you are prepared to contact and transport that bird to rehab immediately. The volunteers who patrol for FLAP Canada for example, operate under a Canada Wildlife Service permit that allows them to handle and collect birds that are injured or killed in window collisions.

If you have found a dead bird while participating in GBR and do not possess the permits to retain the bird, we recommend that you either leave the bird where you found it, move it away from the building into brush or nature nearby, bury the bird, or (if in good condition) contact your local natural history museum to donate the specimen. Under the MBCA in Canada and the MBTA in the United States you are not allowed to keep the bird, or any of its feathers for yourself without a permit.

Why do we have these laws?

In the 1800s before any regulations, bird populations were decimated by hunters for various reasons, including to provide ornamental feathers for hats. Without any regulations, by the end of the 1800s Labrador Ducks and Great Auks had been hunted to extinction. With the MBCA and MBTA we prevent destruction of birds from hunting and the creation of a market for bird parts and feathers by prohibiting anyone without a valid permit from possessing them. ¹

1. The History and Evolution of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. May 22, 2015. Audubon.
<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-history-and-evolution-migratory-bird-treaty-act>

Resources

Bird-Building Collisions

<https://flap.org>

<http://birdsafe.ca>

Bird Identification:

<http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>

<http://www.birdseyebirding.com/apps/birdseye/>

<http://www.birderslibrary.com/features/bird-apps-of-the-world.htm>

Find a wildlife rehabilitator:

Canada:

<https://naturecanada.ca/discover-nature/land-wildlife/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wild-animals/>

United States:

<http://www.owra.org/find-a-wildlife-rehabilitator>

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/how-find-wildlife-rehabilitator>

<https://ahnow.org/#/>

Worldwide:

<https://thewrc.org/resources/emergency>

(FLAP Canada cannot endorse or recommend any of the links in the references; therefore, mention of specific links in this manual cannot be construed as an endorsement or recommendation. We recommend you thoroughly research any organization or individual.