



# HOMES SAFE FOR BIRDS

CANADA  
FLAP



*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 tiny songbirds migrating thousands of kilometres through our towns, cities and rural areas during spring and fall. For them, glass can be deadly.



*Windows deceive birds.*

Trees or sky reflected in a windowpane or a glass/plexiglass railing; a tempting potted plant behind a window; or glass walls on either side of a building all appear to offer unobstructed flight. Many birds die on impact. Those that appear just stunned can easily fall prey to roaming cats or other predators. Birds that manage to fly away can still have severe internal injuries. In short, bird-window collisions are a major cause of bird mortality and up to 90% of all collisions happen at our homes. They cannot be dismissed as random occurrences.

## Found an injured bird?

Should a bird hit your window, use both hands to gently enclose the bird and place it inside an unwaxed paper bag or cardboard box. Close securely and place it in a safe, quiet location away from people and pets. Do not give the bird food or water. Contact your local wildlife rehabilitator immediately for further instructions.



## Report bird collisions

If you find a bird (dead or alive) that has hit a window, record the incident on the **Global Bird Collision Mapper**, a community-science mapping database, at [birdmapper.org](http://birdmapper.org).

## Assess your windows

Windows you think pose the greatest risk to birds may not be the only ones where collisions occur. To do an assessment of windows in your home, visit [flapapp.ca](http://flapapp.ca).



*Birds provide many crucial ecosystem services: they pollinate plants, distribute seeds and control agricultural and residential pest outbreaks.*

# Effective measures to keep birds safe



**Stop birds from flying into windows: make the entire window look like a barrier.**

## FLAP Canada Guidelines

Apply a dense pattern of markings (small dots, squares, lines, etc.) to the **outside surface** of each window. To prevent even the smallest of birds from trying to fly around the markings, make sure the markings are **no more than 5 cm (2 inches) apart**.

On these panels you'll find some easy, attractive and cost-effective techniques.

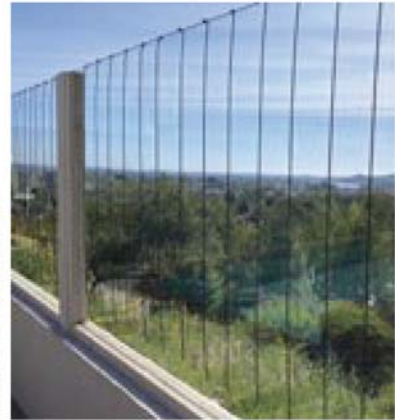
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY FLAP CANADA



➤ Draw temporary patterns on the outside of your windows with a bar of soap, washable tempera paint or paint pens. Treat your window like a canvas! You may need to repeat this after a rainfall.

▼ CREATIVE SOLUTION TO WINDOW COLLISIONS DONE WITH TEMPERA PAINT

PHOTOGRAPH © INGRID E. CAMPBELL



▲ ACOPIAN BIRDSAVERS INSTALLED ON A RAILING

➤ Hang ribbons or strings the length of your window, no more than 10 cm (4 inches) apart.



▲ FEATHER FRIENDLY® WINDOW MARKERS

➤ Apply window markers such as Feather Friendly® DIY tape 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



▲ CUSTOMIZED WINDOW TREATMENT

➤ Contact your local signage company to create a custom bird-safe window treatment that meets FLAP Canada guidelines.



For more info: [flap.org](http://flap.org)

➤ When replacing your windows or custom-building your new home, consider investing in bird-deterrent glass products. Visit [birdsafecanada.ca/window-options/](http://birdsafecanada.ca/window-options/).

➤ 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!

**Share your retrofit stories with FLAP and spread the joy with everyone you know!**



FLAP CANADA PHOTO

▲ THE PERFECT SCENARIO: TREATED WINDOW, FEEDER UP CLOSE, INDOOR CAT.

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The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada is a registered charity (CRA# 14074 6736 RR0001) safeguarding migratory birds in the built environment through education, policy development, research, rescue and rehabilitation. Partnering with governments, businesses and communities, FLAP promotes bird-safe practices.

