

Did you know that in North America, over 100 million die from collisions with buildings every year?

Often these collisions occur in cities, and you can contribute directly to conservation efforts by making your home more visible and less dangerous to our urban wildlife.



Collisions tend to occur during migration season when birds are moving through the province in large numbers. In Manitoba, Spring migration occurs between mid-March and late June with fall migration occurring between mid-August and early October. These are the times when efforts to prevent window collisions can have maximal effect.

The best solutions to window strikes are those that make the window visible to birds in flight.

Whitewashing consists of painting the exterior of windows with a translucent white mixture of lime, salt and water. It is highly effective at deterring window strikes. It does wash away, and not every homeowner might want windows that are obscured by the product.

Animal Facts

Preventing Collisions for Birds

There are a number of window films and treatments that may be applied to existing windows to make them more visible. These range from moderately to highly effective when installed correctly. The key to installing these items correctly is making visible components no more than 10 cm apart horizontally and 5 cm apart vertically. When gaps are larger than this birds simply aim for the spaces between the visible markings on the glass. Picture a little songbird in flight with its wings spread out. The window treatments should be close enough together that the bird doesn't want to risk a collision with what it is seeing on the window.

Decals are included in the above window treatments and can be highly effective when applied with the spacing as described. A single decal, even if of a predator such as a hawk or falcon does not tend to decrease window strikes as well as numerous decals as above.

There are also a number of simple and effective things you the homeowner can do today without specialized products. Awnings that shade the entire window can aid in preventing reflection and the appearance of trees and sky beyond the window. Removing plants from interiors alongside windows can make it less appealing for a bird to fly into the window. Additionally turn off inside lights at night time. Finally close blinds or drapes to create a very visible and effective "barrier" for the bird.

As you can see, there are a number of things that you can do today to help with this situation. For more information about protecting birds living in urban areas, please visit <http://flap.org>.



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