

Frequently asked Questions

(looking for on-going additions to this list)

Q. Where can I buy some of the products to prevent collisions?

A. Be prepared by knowing where in your local area products are available or refer people to our website and to the web addresses on the deterrent handout.

Q. When during the day do bird collisions occur?

A. Collisions can occur any time of day or night, but most are reported in early morning when birds are usually most active.

Q. Do migratory birds tend to collide with the north sides of buildings during the fall and the south sides of buildings during the spring?

A. During migration there are situations where the direction of migration effects where birds collide. Migration across lakes or through narrow migration corridors often funnel birds into one particular side of buildings. For the most part, birds collide where habitat attracts them to a location, with no correlation to the compass.

Q. Can sounds be used to prevent bird collisions?

A. No practical method using sounds to deter bird-window collisions has been found.

Q. Can smells be used to prevent bird collision?

A. The sense of smell is poorly developed in most bird species, so no.

Q. Can owl models be used to prevent bird collisions?

A. Birds quickly realize a plastic owl is not real and ignore it.

Q. Can UV markers be used to create effective collision preventing patterns on windows?

A. There is anecdotal evidence that birds can see and avoid windows evenly covered with a pattern created by highlighters, but this has not been scientifically field tested.

Q. Do bird collisions occur at higher rates on taller buildings?

A. No. The mass mortality events that do occur on high-rise buildings gather lots of attention, but overall the majority of collisions occur on low-rise buildings, usually associated with habitat that attracts them to the location.

Q. Do all bird species have an equal susceptibility to collide with glass?

A. No, some species such as wood warblers and similar forest species seem more vulnerable to collisions. Some city species seem to learn to avoid windows.

Q. Do bird collisions occur because buildings are located along specific migratory routes migrating birds tend to follow within cities?

A. Yes. Buildings located along migration corridors and narrow points can cause large numbers of collisions. Toronto, Chicago, and Detroit are good examples of where birds are funneled into them by the Great Lakes in large numbers with an often disastrous result.

Q. What should a person do if they find an injured bird that has collided with a window?

A. If only stunned, place in a paper bag with a cloth on the bottom to help it get a grasp to stand. Place in a cool, dark, quiet place and see if it recovers; if not, best is to take it to a local wildlife rehabilitator.

Q. What should a person do if they find a dead bird that has collided with a window?

A. If it is a freshly killed bird, freeze and donate to a local museum or nature center. Best to call before showing up with a specimen.

Q. What can a person do if they are concerned about birds colliding with windows at their place of work or some other commercial, educational, governmental or industrial building?

A. Document the location and number of the collisions and bring it to the attention of the responsible party for the building. Try educating them to the seriousness of the issue.