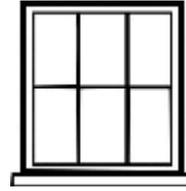


Fact Sheet: Birds vs. Windows



1. Most birds that hit windows are migratory species – they are only passing through our cities and yards during the spring and fall, on their way from overwintering sites in the south to breeding sites in northern forests.
2. Window strikes are the number 2 biggest killer of migratory songbirds! (number 1 killer: pet cats)
3. About 25 million birds are killed by windows in Canada per year, mostly at individual homes (22.4 million).¹
4. It is very easy to prevent your home from killing birds!

Solutions:

- Identify your killer windows! Probably only one or two cause strikes. Often glass doors or glassed in porches are the worst offenders.
- Address your problem windows during migration – in Winnipeg mid-Apr to mid-May, and Sept are peak times (but treating windows anytime can help!)
- Break up the reflection of the window from the outside:
 - Use bar soap or washable paint to draw a grid or pattern
 - Hang strings with plastic flags attached at intervals
 - Put screen or netting (use the stuff meant to keep birds off fruit trees) on the outside of windows
 - Buy commercially available ‘bird-saver’ products (decals, strings)
- If you have a bird feeder, move it *closer* to your window (3ft or less) so birds can’t pick up enough speed for a fatal strike.
- Close blinds/curtains on the inside so birds can’t see a flyway through your house/porch.

What to do with an injured bird:

- If the bird doesn’t fly away, put it into a cardboard box and place a dish towel over the top.
- Leave the box outside in a safe place.
- Check after 15 minutes. The bird may fly out when you lift the towel. If not replace the towel and wait 15 more minutes.
- If after an hour, the bird doesn’t fly away, call
 - Prairie Wildlife Rehab: 204-510-1855
 - Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre: 204-878-3740

¹Machtans et al. (2013) Avian Conserv & Ecol. 8: 6