

# BIRD WINDOW STRIKES

## Edmonton: A Shared Community

Birds live in Edmonton with us. Unfortunately, our feathered neighbours frequently collide with the windows in our homes. Together as a community we can stop many avoidable injuries and deaths caused by windows. Awareness is the first step.

Educate yourself about bird window strikes, how to prevent them and what to do when you see a bird strike your window. WRSE's website and the resources in this pamphlet are a great place to start.



Help conserve our beautiful and helpful neighbours: *Birds!*

American Robins hit windows most commonly in the spring.

Photo Credit: Doris May

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton**  
Compassionate Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife



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Prevent Birds From Hitting Your Windows

### What are bird window strikes?

Possibly fatal collisions when birds fly into windows.

### Are strikes common?

Unfortunately, yes. One study estimated that one to ten birds are killed per home per year in North America<sup>1</sup>.

### Why do they occur?

Birds see through clear windows, not realizing there is an obstruction in their path. They also see the reflection of trees/sky in windows and think that there is more natural habitat ahead of them<sup>2</sup>. Startled birds may quickly fly away from danger into glass that they cannot see or think is more natural habitat.

### What factors increase bird window strikes?

- Placing structures that attract birds, such as feeders or trees, further than one metre from windows allows the bird to increase its flight speed before collision.
- Having windows that are larger than two metres.<sup>1</sup>
- Anything that increases the number of birds approaching your house, such as wintertime, migration seasons and early mornings.<sup>3</sup>

### How can I prevent birds from hitting my windows?

- 1. Place your bird feeder carefully!** Place bird feeders less than one metre, or more than ten metres, away from windows.
- 2. Make windows more visible!** Make your windows visible to birds by placing items on the outside of the window to break up their reflection. These items can be ribbon, wind chimes, silhouettes, decals or any other object that will call attention to the window.
- 3. Make windows less dangerous!** You can cover the outside of the window with a screen or netting that will allow birds that hit the window to bounce off unharmed.

### What should I do if a bird hits my window?

If a bird hits your window, carefully place the bird in a cardboard box that you have lined with paper towels, close the box, and put it in a warm, dark, quiet place to give the bird a chance to rest. After one hour, take the box outside to open it. If the bird is sufficiently recovered, it will fly away. If the bird does not fly away, call our hotline (780) 914-4118 for further advice.

–Thank you to Jaclyn Fink who put this information together to promote conservation through education about bird window strikes! –



House Finches and a House Sparrow at the bird feeder.

### Resources

1. Klem. 1990. J. Field Ornithology. 61:120
2. Avery. 1979. Bird Control Seminars.
3. Klem. 1989. Wilson Bull. 101:606

#### **University of Alberta Bird Awareness Project**

<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/birdaware>

#### **Top 10 Tips for Reducing Bird Strikes**

[http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/backyard\\_birds/top\\_ten/bill\\_top\\_10\\_strikes.aspx](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/backyard_birds/top_ten/bill_top_10_strikes.aspx)

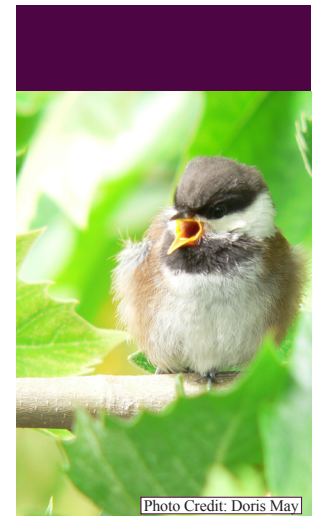


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