

BirdSafe Portland:

Assessing the magnitude of Window Strikes

Window strikes are the second leading cause of bird mortality next to habitat loss, and yet, no one has ever assessed the magnitude of this issue in Portland. In September of 2009, Portland Audubon received a Future for Wildlife Grant from the Oregon Zoo to pilot surveys on our own city streets. Our volunteers conduct surveys beginning at dawn in order to minimize scavengers and maintenance crews removing evidence of such strikes.

These surveys continue seasonally with Together Green funding from Toyota and National Audubon, and rely upon assistance from cooperating building managers, maintenance crews and tenants. Our city skyline is changing rapidly, with increasingly tall, glassy buildings constructed in places we've never built before. It will be crucial to have a set of baseline data to help us understand where strikes may occur.

This information will help inform our ongoing efforts to make Portland a bird-friendly city!

<http://audubonportland.org/issues/metro/birdsafe>



South Waterfront © Bob Sallinger



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Golden-crowned Kinglet © Mary Coolidge



Thank you to our cooperating buildings!

Ardea, Eliot, Fox, Good Sam, Ladd, Meriwether, Metro, OHSU, USBancorps, USFWS, Wells Fargo, John Ross, Atwater, 1201 Integra, & State of Oregon Bldng.

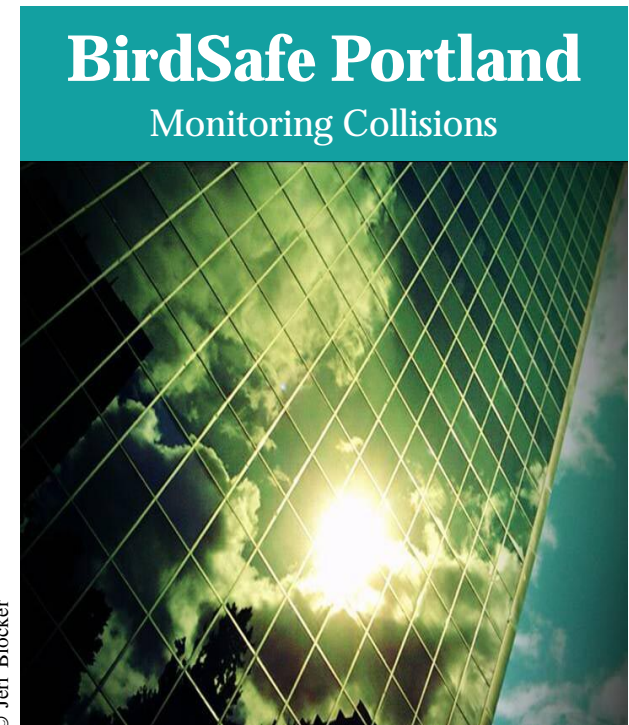
How Can I Help Reduce Birdstrikes?

- Reduce unnecessary overnight lighting at home & work
- Place birdfeeders within 3 ft or over 30 ft from windows
- Densely affix UV decals to problem windows
- Move indoor plants away from windows
- Attach exterior screens to problem windows
- Report strikes and strike areas to us at Audubon
- Volunteer to walk a survey around your building!

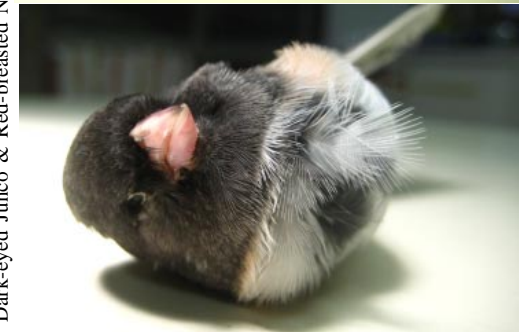
To help with Bird Safe Portland or to report strikes, contact Mary Coolidge at 503.292.6855 x111

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Dark-eyed Junco & Red-breasted Nuthatch © Mary Coolidge



**Audubon Society
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Window Strikes and Bird Safe Portland

Window strikes account for the death of 100 million to 1 billion birds in the United States every year according to conservative estimates. This is a lethal toll second only to habitat destruction, and affects healthy and fit birds as readily as sick or young birds!

Strikes can occur at panes of various sizes, various heights, and in urban, suburban, and rural environments and can occur both overnight and during the day.

Why do birds strike windows?

Birds simply cannot perceive glass as a barrier. During the day, birds see sky and vegetation reflected in windows as a continuation of habitat. In cases where windows meet at corners or are spaced closely enough to allow views through (like in the case of skybridges), birds perceive a fly-through opportunity.

It may come as a surprise that many diurnal species migrate at night to maximize daytime foraging opportunities and to minimize predation risks. Skyglow from cities can interfere with the celestial cues these birds rely on for navigation and may also lure them into cities where they strike buildings or circle them until they collapse from exhaustion and risk cars and scavengers on the ground.

Reducing Ecological Light Pollution

17 cities in the US have already launched LightsOut programs and several have developed Bird-Friendly Building Design Guidelines. Lights Out programs are voluntary reduction of interior and exterior overnight lights during migration seasons when birds are most at risk of hitting buildings as they pass through the city. Lights Out research in Chicago has demonstrated an 80% reduction in overnight strike rates when lights go off. Reducing overnight lighting saves energy, money and birds! Work is also being done to design responsible outdoor lighting to reduce light trespass that contributes to Ecological Light Pollution.



© Kenneth Herdy FLAP Toronto



Cedar Waxwing © Mary Coolidge



So. Waterfront Park Lights © Mary Coolidge