

Why go Lights Out?

Many birds migrate at night to minimize predation, maximize daytime foraging, and use celestial cues to guide them. Artificial lighting of cities obscures their nighttime migration guides, and can even lure birds in, where they can become entrapped by light. This may result in a direct impact with a lit building or exposing birds to daytime hazards of glassy city infrastructure. Reducing unnecessary overnight lighting not only helps to minimize window strikes, but also reduces ecological light pollution. An emerging field of research looks at a phenomenon that is known to impact circadian rhythms and predator-prey relationships in birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, and even humans.

Lights Out programs are now underway in 21 North American cities including NYC, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, and San Francisco!

We are campaigning for **Lights Out Portland**, and you can help, too! Turn off any unnecessary outdoor lighting from dawn to dusk during migration seasons: 25 August through 15 November and 15 March through 7 June.

You will save money, energy & birds!

Report bird strikes to Mary Coolidge at 503.292.6855 or mcoolidge@audubonportland.org



Mourning Dove imprint © Jeanne Donaldson



Wildlife Care Center

5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97210
Phone: 503-292-0304

9 am-5 pm - 7 days a week, 365 days a year



Window film on Mirabella window © Mary Coolidge

Administrative Offices

Phone: 503-292-6855

Hours: 9 am to 5 pm, Mon-Fri

Nature Store

Phone: 503-292-9493

Hours: 10 am to 6 pm, Mon-Sat

10 am to 5 pm, Sun

More Info:

[http://audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife/
brochures/windows](http://audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife/brochures/windows)

[http://audubonportland.org/issues/metro/
bsafe/birdsafe](http://audubonportland.org/issues/metro/bsafe/birdsafe)

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Living with Urban Wildlife



Orange-crowned Warbler © Mary Coolidge

Birds and Windows



Birds and Windows



Toronto Birds© Kenneth Herdy

It is estimated that between **100 million and 1 billion birds die every year** in the United States alone due to collisions with windows. Audubon Society's Wildlife Care Center admits 200-300 birds each year from the metropolitan area that have been injured or killed in such collisions.

Why Birds Hit Windows:

Birds simply do not perceive window glass as a barrier. They see a reflection as continuation of habitat, and will fly full-speed into it. Whether tinted or not, transparent or reflective, windows of all sizes and aspects can deceive birds by reflecting trees, shrubs & sky. Most strikes have been shown to occur against windows within the first 3-4 stories of a house or building.

Birds will attempt to fly through an area the size of an average handprint; visual markers on the window can help minimize this. Markers should be applied every 4 inches for best results. *A single decal is not enough to eliminate the strike hazard.*

Tips To Prevent Window Strikes:

- Do not place bird feeders directly in front of windows. Position feeders within 3 feet or more than 30 feet away from windows. At very close distance, birds have less momentum if they strike the window.
- Apply decals to the outside of the window. These should be applied more densely than packaging suggests. Place every 4-10 inches to reliably deter strikes. Available at Audubon's Nature Store, the Backyard Bird Shop, and online.
- Apply black tape horizontally, spaced ~2 inches apart to outside of window.
- Apply string, cord, mylar tape, raptor silhouettes or other moving deterrents to the outside of the window (www.birdsavers.com/).
- Affix screen or mesh netting several inches in front of a window to cushion impact (www.birdbgone.com, www.birdscreen.com).
- Apply window film to the outside of a window (www.lfdcollidescape.com, www.thesunshieldpros.us, or may be locally custom made).
- Naturescaping around windows may help mask deceptive reflections if placed directly in front of & near a window.
- Turn outside lights off and close drapes from 25 August through 15 November and 15 March through 7 June (migration season) to minimize the luring of migrants into cities.

Birds Attacking Windows:

Territorial attacks can be deterred by affixing various objects directly to the outside of the window. Mylar tape, streamers, or fine netting can be effective deterrents. A particularly persistent bird may require covering the entire outside of the window with newspaper. This behavior is tied to breeding cycle territoriality, and may last for just a few weeks.

If a Bird Strikes Your Window:

Window strikes may result either in death or injury. If a bird is stunned, place it in a small box lined with a towel. The box may be placed halfway on a heating pad (low heat). Do not give food. Place the box in a warm quiet place. Check the bird in 1 hour. If it is alert, active and able to fly, release it immediately. If the bird is still having trouble, bring it to the Wildlife Care Center or other wildlife rehabilitation facility (Wildlife Care Center hours & contact info on back panel of this brochure).



Horizontal striping treatment © Christine Sheppard, ABC



Varied Thrush © Mary Coolidge