

Why collisions happen

Birds hit windows for two main reasons: reflections and “see-through” effects.



Reflections

Birds see the things they know and need – habitat and open sky – reflected on our windows. Almost any kind of glass can create a perfect mirror in certain light. Birds fly to the reflected habitat or sky and hit the glass in their path.



See-through effects

When birds see habitat or sky through one or more panes of glass, they may attempt to fly through, not realizing there is a solid barrier in their path. A sun porch, gazebo, linkway or two windows on a corner of your home can create this dangerous effect.

What we're doing

Audubon Minnesota is working to reduce hazards to birds by reducing window collisions.



Black-and-white Warbler | Laura Erickson


“Lights Out” is an ongoing program working with building managers to reduce lighting that can draw night migrating birds off course.

Monitoring existing buildings helps us to learn more about the numbers and species of birds that are victims of window collisions locally.

Research helps us understand what design changes will help birds avoid collisions.

Bird-safe Design is the key to future solutions. While we can retrofit our homes and existing buildings we must look towards a future where building design takes bird-safety into account. We are working with the architecture and design communities to increase understanding of the problem and encourage solutions.

Project BirdSafe Partners: Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis • BOMA Greater Minneapolis • BOMA St. Paul • DNR Nongame Wildlife Program • National Park Service • The Bell Museum of Natural History • Wildlife Rehabilitation Center • Zumbro Valley Audubon • Funding from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation • Printing funded by The Donald Weesner Foundation.

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