

Chicago Ornithological Society

28 E. Jackson Building – 10th Floor – #C980 -- Chicago, IL 60604
312-409-9678 www.chicagobirder.org

Birds & Buildings: Collision Review Worksheet

Mitigation is required --

1. All glass, regardless of color: Reflection of trees or bushes at any time of day
2. Transparent glass: Large green plants visible inside building
3. Transparent glass: An opening or passage is visible between two sides of the building

Birds do not see glass. Birds are deceived by reflections.

Scientific research has documented that birds do not recognize that glass is a barrier to be avoided. Birds don't see windows and, thus, fly head-on into them. It is a major cause of bird mortality.

Birds strike every size of window, in all types of structures, in every season, day and night. Window strikes are equally lethal for large and small species. Small birds will fly through any opening larger than 2" by 4".

1,000,000,000: Conservative upper estimate of birds killed in the U.S. each year by window strikes.

SOLUTIONS

New Construction / Remodeling

- Use glass with an imbedded pattern that is visible on the outside. Separate pattern elements by 2" if arranged in horizontal rows and by 4" if arranged in vertical columns. Any pattern will work.
- Install decorative pieces inside or outside (for reflective) the glass that provides full coverage

Remedying Existing Windows

- Breakup the reflection of greenery into sections less than 2" horizontally and 4" vertically using any materials.
- Close curtains / blinds
- Move green plants away from windows
- Install bold colored artwork inside transparent windows to overpower the reflections