

Window Striking Birds

After flying into windows, many birds are stunned or suffer from head trauma. Here are some very simple steps that people can take to avoid or reduce the occurrence of window strikes:

- **Bird feeders** should be placed either within one metre from a window or more than three metres away.
- Items can be hung in windows, such as **sun-catchers**, so that birds see the item and do not mistake the vegetation reflected in the window as a clear flight path.
- **Decals** can be purchased from birding stores and garden centres to place on windows. Some are simply attractive decals that would work similar to a sun-catcher, while others are designed to **look like predatory birds** to scare songbirds away from the building. A new kind of decal (Window Alert) is virtually invisible to humans but can be clearly seen by birds (who have vision up to 12 times better than human vision).
- Home and office **lights not being used should be turned off** between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., especially during spring and fall migration seasons.

If a bird has struck a window:

1. Gently pick up the bird and place it into a box lined with tissue. Close the lid securely, and place the box in a quiet, dark, warm area for one hour. Make sure that the bird is safe from children and pets. After an hour, bring the box outside (away from windows) and open the lid. If the bird was simply stunned, they will have recovered in this time and will fly away.
2. If the bird does not fly away after the one hour confinement, it should be delivered to a rehabilitator **as soon as possible**. Take the bird to **Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation** (519-736-8172) or drop it off at Lauzon Veterinary Hospital or the Humane Society where transport will be arranged. Do not give food or water unless instructed to, and ensure that the box is covered securely for transit.