

Help Save Birds: All Day, Every Day!

Did you know that you can save birds at your home or office?

Bird threat #1: During the day, birds see their environment reflected in the windows and mirrored exteriors of buildings and can fly into them. They perceive transparent glass on buildings and walkways as clear passage. Birds also strike windows when they see interior plants and trees through clear glass and try to take refuge in them.

Bird threat #2: During the night, birds are drawn to the artificial sky glow produced by overnight lighting. They can fly around spot and vanity lighting until they drop from exhaustion or collide with the buildings. If they survive until daybreak, birds find themselves trapped in a maze of reflective buildings and collide with the windows and reflective walls trying to escape.

Bird threat #3: During the day and night, cats can kill birds when they're roaming freely outside.

Here's what you can do:

At your home

If you feed birds, place feeders at least 30 ft. from building glass. You may also place feeders right next to screened windows (1.5 feet or less away), or install feeders on window glass (suction cup design). This close distance makes a harmful collision much less likely.



If you have cats, try to keep them indoors. Otherwise, leash them when they're outside, or keep them in outdoor screened cat porches. Unfortunately, there's no way to save birds from cats. Even bells on collars have proven ineffective. Plus, given the many safety threats to cats while outside (disease, parasites, toxins, predators, etc.), both cats and birds are safer when cats are kept from roaming freely outside.



At your office and your home

If the lights are on when you're leaving for the evening, turn off office lights, especially in windowed offices.



Cover windows fully with a pattern of any shape so that the pattern elements are separated by 4 inches if applied vertically or by 2 inches if applied horizontally. Patterns should be applied on the outside of see-through windows and reflective glass. The pattern should also contrast enough with the glass to be seen clearly by birds. Make glass visible to birds up to at least 52 ft. above ground level on each building where collisions are or are likely to occur.

If you use spot lighting or outdoor lighting, extinguish exterior vanity lighting and spot lighting by a certain time each night (e.g., 10 pm) especially during bird breeding, migration, and periods of inclement weather. When possible, avoid exterior vanity and spot lighting altogether.



If you have indoor plants, trees and shrubs., move them away from clear glass windows far enough that they can not be seen from outside by birds (if humans can't see them, birds can't see them).



If you have, or are planning on purchasing blinds, purchase white or light colored blinds. Keep them partially opened during the daytime when birds are concentrated (especially during periods of peak songbird migration and breeding), and close them completely at night.

