

Windows

At Le Nichoir, window collisions are the second most common reason that birds are brought in injured. In most cases, birds hit windows because the surroundings reflect in the window glass. Some birds might also try to perch on indoor plants on the other side of the glass if these are located close to the window.



How to prevent window collisions

You can help reduce the risk of window collision in several ways. In most cases, the goal is to break up the window's reflection to help the birds identify the glass as a surface. Because the reflection occurs on the outside, it is important to put any of the items mentioned below on the outside of the glass. Here are a few you can use together with their advantages and disadvantages:

Decals/Stickers

Place decals and stickers on the outside of the glass. They are relatively inexpensive and you can change the stickers with the season. Transparent UV decals are also available that do not impede your view like the regular decals/stickers.

Window drawings

Mark the outside of the window with a bar of soap, highlighter or non-permanent marker. It has to be re-applied after every rainfall.

Dirty windows

Spray or cover your window using soapy or dirty water or water mixed with washable paint or whitewash. It has to be re-applied after every rainfall.

Hanging decorations

Hang ribbons and strings 10cm apart in front of the outside window. Place old CDs, beads, pine cones, sun catchers, etc on these strings to help the birds notice them and add a decorative touch.

For a lot more options on how to make windows safe and for more information on the impact of windows on birds visit FLAP Canada website at www.flap.org

Le Nichoir Wild Bird Conservation Centre

637 Main, Hudson, QC J0P 1H0
450 458 2809

www.lenichoir.org
info@lenichoir.org



Windows

If you have feeders
place them less than 1m (3 ¼ ft.)
or more than 10m (32 ft.)
from your window.

Placing feeders at less than 1m
from the window will reduce
the severity if a collision occurs
whereas birds leaving a feeder
that is 10m or more from
the house are less likely to hit
the window altogether.



A bird is fighting with the window

A bird fighting with the window is seeing its own reflection and, believing that it is another bird, is trying to chase the 'intruder' from its territory. To some, it might look as though the bird is trying to enter the house.

Just as for preventing window collisions, you need to place something on the outside of the glass. However, the bird will keep fighting with the window even if only a small part of the glass is uncovered. Consequently, it is usually easier to cover the entire window with cloth or a piece of wood or spray it with soapy water or diluted paint. You can also try to suspend pieces of aluminum in front of the window; the movements of a shiny object will scare many of the birds (but not all). This behaviour is usually associated with the birds establishing their territory at the beginning of the breeding season and should stop in a few weeks once the birds are busy caring for their young.

When a collision happens

If a bird hits your window and does not fly away immediately:

- Pick up the bird gently and place it in a covered box
- Place the box in a quiet dark location
- Contact a licensed rehabilitation centre as soon as possible

Depending on its state, its age and the season, the bird will possibly need specialized care. It may suffer from brain, eye or spinal damage or have an internal injury or a fracture, and will need to be treated by a wildlife rehabilitation centre as soon as possible.