

YOU FOUND A BIRD THAT COLLIDED WITH A WINDOW — WHAT TO DO

Reflections from windows can confuse birds. They may cause them to fly into the glass or repeatedly peck at what they see as their competition.

Window strikes appear to increase during spring and fall when warblers, like this Hooded Warbler, and other migrants that are unfamiliar with our terrain pass through.



If you found a bird that hit a window and appears to be stunned, gently place it in a shoe box with air holes punched in the lid and paper towels or an old t-shirt on the bottom for the bird to grasp. Put a rubber band around the box, and place it in a quiet, dark, warm area.

It often takes just a little while for the bird to recover on its own. Wait about an hour, or until you hear the bird fluttering, take the box outdoors, open the lid and point the open box away from you. The bird should bolt for the nearest tree. If it doesn't, put the lid back, keep it a little while longer, and try again. If the collision happens at sunset, keep the bird overnight.

If the bird doesn't fly away, is bleeding, a wing is hanging, or you see any other obvious injury, please take it to St. Francis Wildlife.

How to prevent bird window strikes

Falcon silhouette decals were once considered a solution. Now we know they don't deter birds unless they are placed four inches apart and cover most of the window. But there goes our view.

There are a few promising new products on the market. WindowAlert makes a transparent window decal that reflects ultraviolet sunlight, which is invisible to humans but glows like a stop-light for birds. CollideEscape is a company that worked with the American Bird Conservancy to create clear and tinted adhesive window films and tapes.

Another solution is to place a screen or netting over the window that doesn't obstruct your view. Think 'birdie trampolines.'

Try placing bird feeders closer to the windows. Birds can still fly into them, but may not have enough momentum to injure themselves. Shade trees planted outside the window cut down on some of the reflection that confuses birds.