

About Audubon Texas

Audubon Texas is the state branch of the National Audubon Society. For 100 years Audubon Texas has been dedicated to conserving and restoring natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Visit Audubon online for more information and tips on creating a bird-friendly community.

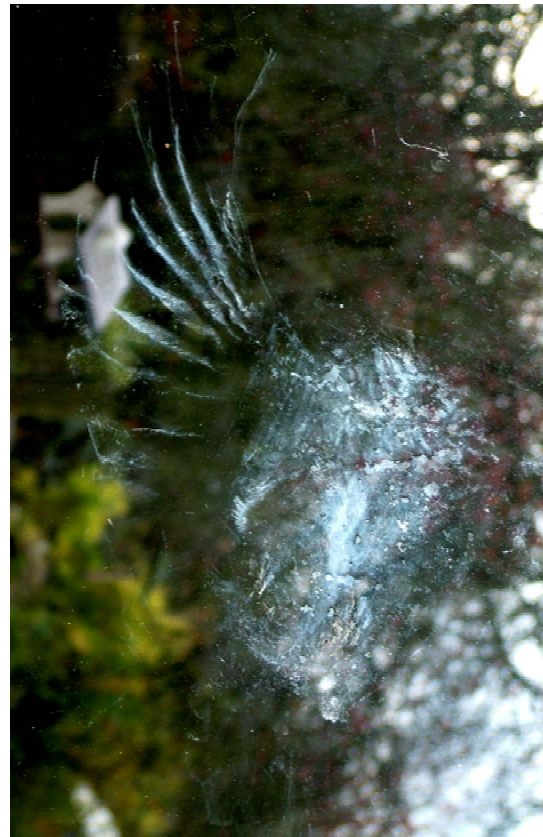
www.tx.audubon.org

Audubon Texas
2201 Main Street
Dallas, TX 75201
214-370-9735

Front Image: Angus Kirk,
Flickr CC.
Quick Tips Image:
T Homayoun

Bird-friendly Buildings

A Guide to Preventing Window Strikes



As the number two human-related cause of bird mortality, window strikes are responsible for millions of bird deaths each year. Native birds face an increasing number of threats as the country becomes progressively more urban. For every 10% increase in glass, collisions increase 20-32%. In order to stop, or prevent, window strikes, there are a variety of window alterations that can make a building more bird friendly.

QUICK TIPS

How to make your windows safe for birds:

KNOW WHAT CAUSES STRIKES

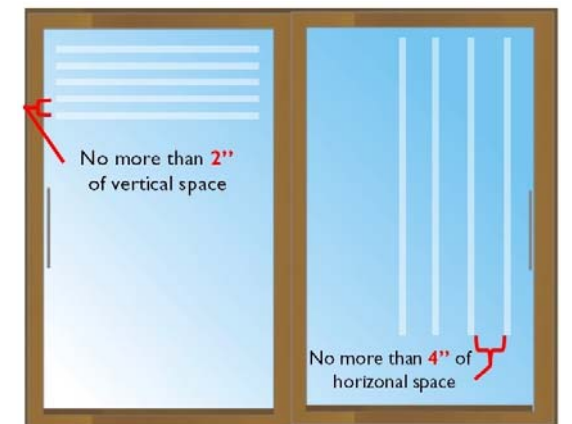
If you have a problem with window strikes at your home, office, or school, determine what is causing the problem before trying to fix it. Strikes are usually the result of birds attempting to fly through transparent glass or into windows that reflect images of habitat. Alterations for transparency issues can be made both on the interior and exterior of the window. When reflections are the problem any window adjustments must be on the exterior side.

MOVE YOUR FEEDERS

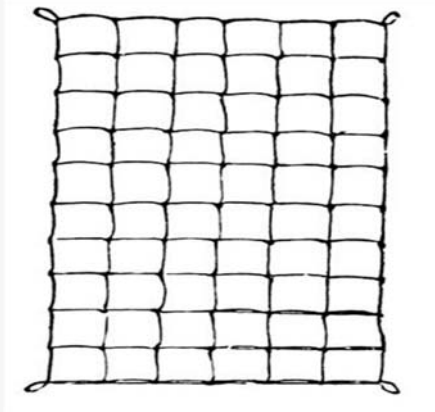
All feeders, regardless of whether there is an existing strike problem or not, should be placed within 3 feet of a window or at least 30 feet away. This will reduce the risk to any birds flying towards, or away from, your feeders. It is also helpful to place them in an area with plant cover nearby. If a hawk begins to prey on the feeder birds, the plants will provide safe shelter. Be wary of any window reflections that may result from supplying cover vegetation.

FOLLOW THE 2X4 RULE

Decals and tape are some of the most commonly used products in bird-friendly window modifications; however, they are often used incorrectly. In order to maximize the effectiveness of these products they should be placed with no more than 2" of vertical space and 4" of horizontal space between each decal or strip of tape. With more than a 2x4" space between decals, birds may still fly towards unaltered glass on the windows.



Window Treatment Options



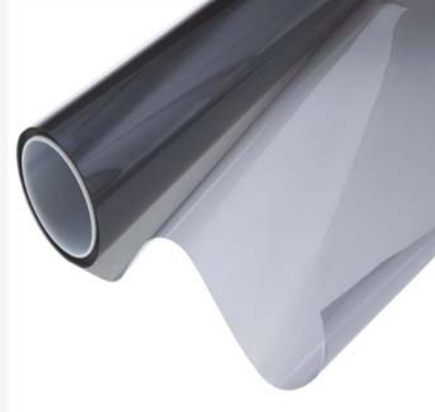
SCREENS & NETTING

Netting and screens act as barriers between birds and glass. They should be hung at least 2" from the glass to prevent birds from hitting the window. Nets can be secured with net clips, hooks, or a staple gun. Screens should be hung loosely with screw hooks or suction-cup brackets (available with most purchases). Rolls of net vary in both mesh size and length. Screens can be purchased for both windows and sliding doors. Standard window sizes are available online, and many sites also offer custom sizing.

Screen Price: Standard \$24-26; Custom orders vary.

Netting Price: \$50-200

Websites: birdscreen.com
absolutebirdcontrol.com



FILMS

Films can be applied to the exterior side of windows to make them visible to birds. They minimize window space that is either clear or reflective. A variety of designs are available, including artistic images and patterns. Some films, such as CollidEscape, cover the entire windows providing both energy savings and privacy along with benefits to birds. These films have thousands of tiny perforations that let light pass through, allowing people to see out while limiting the view in.

Price: \$30-200

Websites: wpines.com
collidescape.org
windowdressingetc.com
sunshieldpros.com



BIRD TAPE & DECALS

Window tape makes windows visible to birds, but still allows light to pass through. Apply to a window's exterior after cutting to the desired length. Decals are available from a variety of sources. They either stick or static cling to windows, and alert birds to the presence of the glass. A single strip of tape or decal will not do much to prevent strikes. They should cover the majority of the window in accordance to the 2x4 rule. Prices for both products depend upon the amount needed to cover the window space.

Tape Price: \$12-20

Decal Price: \$7 per pack

Websites: abcbirdtape.org
windowalert.com
wpines.com



ACOPIAN BIRDSAVERS

BirdSavers are 1/8" nylon cords that dangle 4" from each other on a window's exterior surface. They can be secured with Velcro to the top of a window frame, and provide an attractive way to make windows bird-friendly without obstructing the view. They can be purchased at the website below, or you can follow the online instructions to make your own. Proceeds from product sales are used to support other conservation programs. BirdSavers can be used to comply with the LEED Pilot Credit 55: Bird Collision Deterrence.

Price: \$20-70; Varies with window size.

Websites: birdsavers.com



CERAMIC FRITTING & UV TECHNOLOGY

Permanent patterns can be applied to glass with ceramic frit. Frits are silk-screened onto glass to increase privacy and energy efficiency, but they provide an additional benefit to birds by making glass visible. Because builders and architects tend to prefer glass with no visual obstructions, one company, Ornilux, has started producing glass with UV designs. Humans cannot see these designs, but birds can, allowing them to avoid the glass. Fritted and UV glass, while expensive up front, can earn LEED tax credits and reduce energy costs.

Prices: Fritting varies; UV at least 50% more than typical glass pane.

Websites: ornilux.com
viracon.com