



City of Highland Park

Protecting and Enjoying Birds



Residents and business owners are encouraged to create and maintain habitats and reduce hazards to birds.

Migratory and local birds are important to Chicago

- Birds connect all of us to nature.
- Birds are an irreplaceable part of the earth's natural systems, playing a major role in seed dispersal, habitat restoration and control of many insect pests.
- Birds are an excellent indicator of the overall health of an ecosystem.
- When we improve our city for birds, we also improve it for countless other creatures, including bats, butterflies and ourselves.

Birds face serious challenges. More than a third of all bird species in the US are in decline because of human activity. Bird collisions with glass are likely the primary hazard to the millions of birds that migrate through the Chicago area in spring and fall, as well as to resident birds.

We can do something about that!



Birds don't understand the concept of glass; they take reflections literally and try to fly through glass to habitat on the other side. The larger the piece of glass, the more collisions are likely. There are many ways to make glass safe for birds without obstructing the view for people. The pattern seen here covers < 8% of the glass surface but is highly effective.

Objectives: Create Visual Signals, Minimize Reflectivity and Minimize Light At Night

Guidelines for Bird-friendly Design or Retrofit

Bird-safe buildings can also use cutting-edge sustainable design

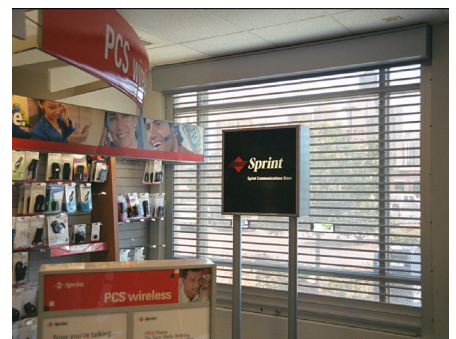
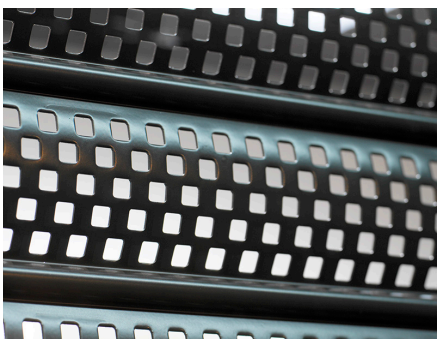
1. Use glass or window film that incorporates a pattern like those shown below; birds will interpret this as a barrier.



2. Glazing can be enhanced by elements that are visually interesting as well as functional, like vertical or horizontal sun shades or even seasonal decorations



3. Covering glass when not in use enhances security and stops collisions



4. Lights at night disorient migrating birds. Turning off unnecessary lights helps birds and reduces energy costs.

For more information, visit
birdsmartglass.org and
collisions.abcbirds.org