

Keep Backyard Birds Safe

Windows



It is estimated that collisions account for 1 billion bird deaths in North America each year. Residential windows can be just as deadly for birds as tall office- building. American Bird Conservancy

Birds fly into windows because they see the reflection of nature on the glass or a clear way through a window on the other side

- Relocate feeders to within three feet of or more than 30 feet from windows
- Move house plants away from windows
- Place any stickers, decals or paracord on the outside of the glass, every 4 inches vertically and every 2 inches horizontally
- Use Low-cost solutions such as designs on the outside of the window, washable glass markers, bar soap or tempera paint

Pets

Trails where people walked with leashed dogs had 35 percent less bird biodiversity than the trails where dog walking was forbidden. Audubon Magazine 2020

The presence of a cat interrupts nesting birds and reduces feeding their young, decreasing nest success. American Bird Conservancy

- Make sure pets do not have access to feeders, birdbaths, or birds' nests
- Keep cats indoors or in an escape-proof outdoor area like a Catio
- Put out orange peel to discourage cats, since they avoid citrus scents
- Use fencing or motion activated sprinkler to discourage roaming animals
- Keep dogs on a leash when hiking or taking walks
- Support enforcement of ordinances aimed at keeping pets safe



Pesticides



Birds can swallow pesticide directly, such as when a bird mistakes a pesticide granule for a seed, or indirectly, by consuming contaminated prey. US Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management Jan. 2002

- Use homemade or natural pesticides like diatomaceous earth or boric acid
- Buy organic seeds or packets that are non-neonic certified
- If you must use a commercial insecticide, ensure it has no neonicotinoids
- Use exclusion and sanitation tactics to get rid of rodents safely and cost-effectively
- Refer to the *Safe Rodent Control Resource Center* <http://saferodentcontrol.org/site/> for more information

Lighting

70% of birds in North America migrate and more than 80% of them make their seasonal flights at night. Artificial light at night (ALAN) can disrupt bird migration in a variety of ways, including disorienting birds from their routes and causing collisions with buildings, resulting in millions of bird fatalities each year. International Dark-sky Association, May 9, 2019

- Install or cover porch lights so they cast light on the ground
- Use yellow light bulbs to keep from attracting night flying insects
- Use motion-activated security lights
- Close shades or blinds at night



Central New Mexico Audubon Society
cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

Friends of Valle de Oro NWR
Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
ABQbackyardRefuge.org

