

MAKE YOUR HOME A BIRD HAVEN

Creating habitat for birds provides benefits to birds as well as backyard birdwatchers. As wilderness continues to diminish, birds are increasingly seeking out residential habitat for food and shelter. Luckily for us, having more birds in our yards means benefits such as increased plant germination, natural pest eradication, and a lively garden. Here are some tips for helping local bird populations from your own backyard:

- Provide bird food through plants that produce seeds, flowers, nuts, and fruit
- Create complexity among native plant types, different heights, and blooming times
- Limit deadheading flowers to provide seed
- Provide a water source that birds can use to bathe and drink
- Encourage nesting sites for breeding birds by using nest boxes or growing dense protective plants perpendicular to the prevailing wind
- Trim trees in winter to protect nesting birds
- Keep cats indoors and limit attracting birds to your property if you are an outdoor cat owner
- Avoid using rat poison and glue traps outdoors
- Visit scvas.org for more guidelines and to learn how you can certify your garden or outdoor space as a bird sanctuary through our Bird Sanctuary Program.



For information, contact:

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Email: scvas@scvas.org Website: scvas.org
Office and Nature Shop Hours:
Monday - Friday, 10AM-4PM
Saturday, 10AM-2PM

Bird photos courtesy of Tom Grey

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society



Make Your Home Safe for Birds

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GLASS COLLISIONS

Up to a billion birds die from collisions with glass each year in the United States. This staggering number makes bird strikes one of the leading man-made causes of death for birds, along with habitat destruction and free-roaming cats. Some of the most common victims are the Anna's Hummingbird and Cedar Waxwing, species that make their homes right here in Santa Clara Valley. Fortunately, there are steps we can take to reduce these senseless bird deaths in our own backyards and homes.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Most daytime glass collisions occur either because the bird sees something appealing on the other side of the glass or because the glass reflects the surrounding environment and the bird cannot tell the difference. In both cases, making the glass easier for the bird to see can save a bird's life. The most effective way to reduce the number of glass collisions is to reduce the size of windows and provide visual cues. For new homes and remodels, choose a window design that takes birds into account (as the large windows of modern architecture have proven disastrous for birds). For those of us who would rather not redesign our windows, there are many retrofit products available that have proven successful in saving birds.

EXAMPLES OF RETROFITS

ABC Birdtape is an easy-to-install, long-lasting, translucent tape that lets light in but partially obscures visibility.

Effectiveness: High
Cost: Very Low



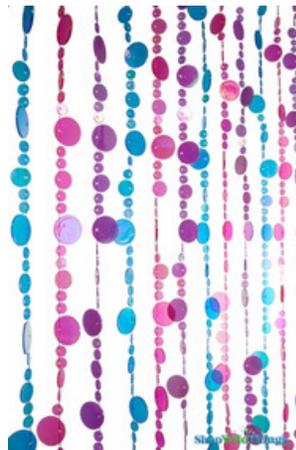
Film is a thin adhesive cover applied to windows that does not impede visibility but provides a visual cue for birds. It has the added benefits of reducing glare and cooling costs.

Effectiveness: Very High
Cost: Moderate



Beaded Strings or Curtains are available in a wide variety of colors and arrangements. These are most effective when applied on the outside of a window.

Effectiveness: High
Cost: Low



TIPS TO PREVENT WINDOW STRIKES

- Position bird feeders so that they are not reflected in the window
- Apply visual cues such as beaded curtains to the outside of windows spaced every 4 inches.
- Apply string, mylar tape, raptor, silhouettes, other moving deterrents to the outside of windows (for ideas, visit birdsavers.com).
- Affix screens several inches in front of windows (see examples at birdbegone.com, birdscreen.com).
- Apply window film to the outside of windows (e.g. decorativefilm.org).
- Naturescape to block reflections by positioning plants in front of and within 3 feet of windows.
- At night, lower and close your drapes so birds are not attracted to light emitted from inside.
- Turn outside lights off and close drapes during migration season: from August 25 through November 15 in the fall, and from March 15 through June 7 in the spring.

IF A BIRD STRIKES YOUR WINDOW

Window strikes may result in either death or injury. If a bird is stunned, place it in a small box lined with a paper towel. The box may be placed halfway on a heating pad (low heat). Do not give the bird food. Place the box in a warm quiet place and check the bird in an hour. If it is alert, active, and able to fly, release it immediately. If the bird is still having trouble, call the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley at (408) 929-9453.