

Help Our Feathered Friends Avoid Window Strikes

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Bird migration season is here and with it brings an increase in dangerous window strikes. This rescued red-eyed vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) is an example of a window strike victim and, without serious injury, was soon released to its habitat. Installing stickers onto the exterior of glass is an easy way to help prevent this problem. Many bird species migrate at night and are attracted to or confused by light. Turning off exterior lights is a big help. Indoor light can draw birds to the windows, so turning off those interior lights when nobody is in the room or using darkening curtains are beneficial. Additional tips and techniques:

- The paracord “Zen Curtain” method: <https://www.birdsavers.com/>
 - A great DIY video that uses this paracord technology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8QRVMyW2fE>
 - Samson’s Amsteel rope [AMSTEEL - Samson Rope](#) withstands weathering and UV degradation better than paracord.
- The sticker and tape methods: <https://www.collidescape.org/>
- More on the problem and solutions: <https://www.audubon.org/news/reducing-collisions-glass#:~:text=Reducing%20reflective%20surface%20collisions>
- Join the Lights Out program: <https://www.audubon.org/our-work/cities-and-towns/lights-out>

Help a living bird who is stunned or injured in a window strike by contacting AnimalHelpNow <https://ahnow.org/>, a national non-profit that provides local rehabilitator’s contact information. They can assist with other wildlife emergencies, too. More locally, Fairfax County’s Animal Protection Police can also help with injured animals. Use the police non-emergency number, 703-691-2131, or email at FCPDAnimalProtection@FairfaxCounty.gov.

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