

Saving Birds with Effective Glass Solutions

The request:

- Support the passage of Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act (H.R. 3781 of 2023) to encourage the implementation of bird-friendly glazing design strategies in federal buildings.
- Reference NGA’s Best Practice for Bird Friendly Glazing Design Guide in bird-friendly glazing legislation.

The issue:

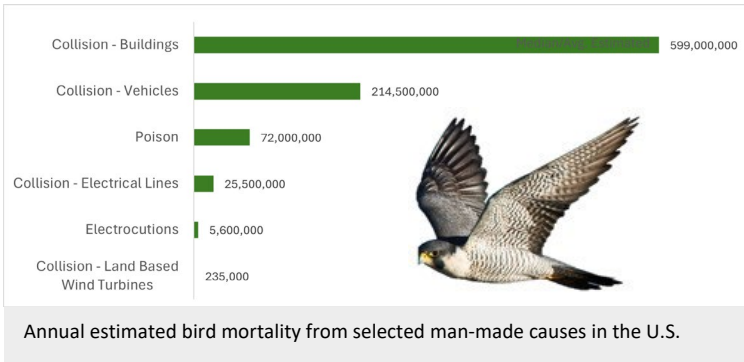
Clear and reflective surfaces in the built environment can be invisible threats to birds.

Clear surfaces may create perceived flythrough conditions. Birds may perceive images reflected in the glass such as vegetation to be real and may fly into the glass thinking they are trees or sky.

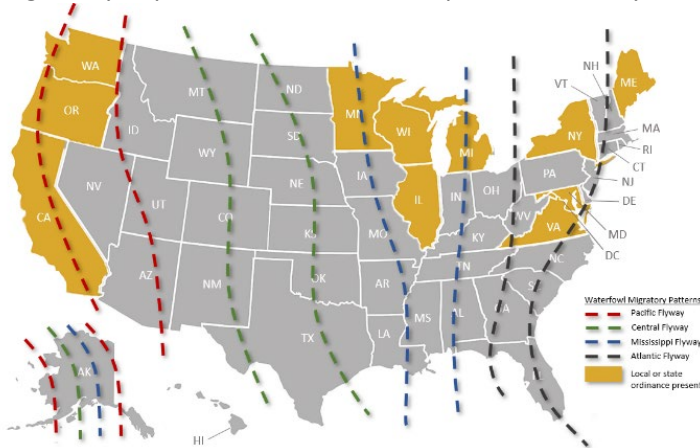
The strategy:

Interrupting reflections by creating visual markers on the glass at a specific spacing and geometry has been shown to significantly reduce bird collisions. Architects are specifying this type of glass, termed *Bird-Friendly Glass*, on facades up to the height of the mature tree canopy for the region/site.

Bird-Friendly glazing looks nearly the same but performs differently and can reduce the number of birds colliding with the building.



Mandatory and voluntary ordinances to prevent bird-window collisions at government and/or commercial buildings have been adopted by several states, municipalities, and institutions. Currently, the codes are regionally implemented and don’t require consistency.



1. Oregon Zoo Education Center- zero collisions since installation in 2017.
2. Swathmore College, PA - one collision since installation in 2017.
3. Javits Center, NY- 90% reduction in collisions since installation in 2013.
4. National Aviary, PA- zero collisions since installation in 2020.

NGA’s *Best Practice for Bird Friendly Glazing Design Guide* is referenced in GSA P-100 Facilities Standard. Other standards and legislation should also reference this guide for consistency in implementation.

Manufacturing and installation of bird-friendly window products are skilled trades, creating jobs.

References: <https://www.statista.com/chart/15195/wind-turbines-are-not-killing-fields-for-birds/>, NGA *Best Practice for Bird Friendly Glazing Design Guide*- glass.org/store, <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds><https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/existing-ordinances/>, <https://www.nycaudubon.org/our-work/conservation/project-safe-flight/bird-friendly-building-design>

National Glass Association (NGA) combined with the Glass Association of North America (GANA) in 2018 to create the largest trade association serving our industry. We develop standards, create technical resources, and promote and advocate for glass in the built environment. Learn more at glass.org/about-nga/advocacy. For further information on bird-friendly glass please feel free to contact NGA Technical Staff at <mailto:technicalsvcs@glass.org>.