

Saving Birds with Effective Glass Solutions

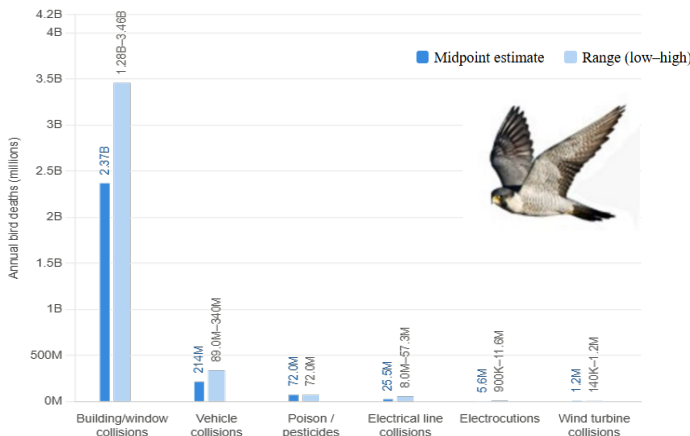
The request:

- Approve the bipartisan Federal Bird Safe Buildings Act of 2025, H.R. 3268, to support the implementation of bird-friendly design strategies and save the lives of countless birds.
- Reference NGA’s Best Practice for Bird Friendly Glazing Design Guide in bird-friendly glazing legislation.
- Reference bird-friendly glazing requirements from ASHRAE 189.1 in legislation and future editions of the GSA Facilities Standard for Public Building Service (PBS) Core Building Standards.

The issue:

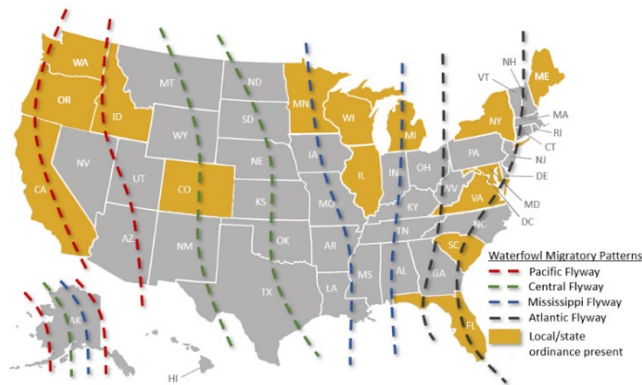
Clear and reflective surfaces in the built environment can be invisible threats to birds.

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.



Sources: Klem et al. (2024) / *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* for building/window collisions (1.28B–3.46B). U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (2023) for vehicle collisions, poison/pesticides, electrical line collisions, and electrocutions. American Bird Conservancy (2021) for wind turbine collisions. All values are annual U.S. estimates.

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 are not uniform or consistent.



The strategy:

Interrupting reflections by creating visual markers or patterns at a specific spacing and geometry can significantly reduce bird collisions. Architects are specifying this type of glass, termed *Bird-Friendly Glass*, in high-risk areas of the building.

Bird-Friendly glazing can reduce the number of birds colliding with the building, as documented in many examples.



1. Oregon Zoo Education Center- zero documented collisions since installation in 2017. 2. Swathmore College, PA - one documented collision since installation in 2017. 3. Everglades National Park Visitor Center – zero documented collisions since installation. 4. National Aviary, PA - zero documented collisions since installation in 2020.

NGA’s *Best Practice for Bird Friendly Glazing Design Guide* is referenced in language approved for the 2027 International Green Construction Code and ASHRAE 189.1-2026. Other legislation and ordinances should also reference these standards and this guide for consistency in implementation for the region/site.

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

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References:

- [What is Killing U.S. Birds](#), Buchholz 2025
- *NGA Best Practice for Bird Friendly Glazing Design Guide*- glass.org/store
- [Threats to Birds](#), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- [Existing Bird-Friendly Legislation & Ordinances](#), American Bird Conservancy
- [Bird Friendly Building Design](#), NYC Bird Alliance.
- [Addendum o to ANSI/ASHRAE/ICC/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1-2023](#), Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings, International Green Construction Code.

The National Glass Association (NGA) represents America's building glass manufacturers, suppliers, fabricators, and installers. NGA's 1,900 member companies employ 71,000 Americans who produce and install glass for homes and commercial buildings and who generate more than \$10.3 billion in annual revenue. NGA promotes and defends the use of glass in the built environment. Our advocacy and technical initiatives respond to the relentless, ever-changing challenges to our industry.



Representing 1,900 company members, the National Glass Association (NGA) is the largest trade association serving the glazing and glass building products industry. We develop standards, create technical resources, promote and advocate for glass in the built environment, and advance the industry as a viable, thriving and exciting career path. Learn more at glass.org/advocacy. For further information on bird-friendly glass please contact NGA Technical Staff at technicalsvcs@glass.org.