

Bird-Safe Buildings Timeline - Technology, Science, and Policy

1916	US Migratory Bird Treaty Act adopted for treaty with Canada
1950s	Most windows are openable with insect screens, which prevent collisions
1960s	Picture windows become widely available, installed without screens
1973	US Endangered Species Act adopted
1980s	Glass buildings, balconies, railings, skywalks, greenhouses, gazebos become common
1980s	Biologists begin studying bird-glass collisions
1989	Klem finds window height and size do not affect chance of bird-glass collisions
1990s	Scientists recommend screens or netting and reduced glass area
2000s	Glass treatments tested - patterns 2" apart vertically or 4" apart horizontally
2005	Birds and Building forum held in Chicago
2007	Toronto adopts Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines (updated in 2013 and 2017)
2008	Hager finds area of windows predict bird strikes more than height or nearby habitat
2011	American Bird Conservancy (ABC) publishes Bird-Friendly Building Design booklet
2011	ABC publishes numeric Material Threat Factors for glass treatments
2011	US Green Building Council adds LEED Pilot Credit 55: Bird Collision Deterrence
2011	Highland Park, IL adopts requirements for City buildings including patterns on windows
2011	Calgary adopts Bird-Friendly Urban Design Guidelines
2011	San Francisco adopts Ordinance requiring more treatment in first 6 stories near open spaces
2012	Portland adopts voluntary measures
2013	State of Minnesota adopts design guidelines for state funded buildings using Threat Factors
2013	Oakland adopts measures for Building Permit Review for first 6 stories near open spaces
2014	Sunnyvale adopts voluntary Design Guidelines to avoid reflective glass first 60 feet
2014	US Fish and Wildlife Service study (Loss et al) estimates annual mortality at 365-999 million/year - all sizes of buildings
2015	American Bird Conservancy updates Bird-Friendly Building Design booklet - all parts of buildings, all sizes of windows, all locations, hummingbirds see UV-treated glass
2015	San Jose adopts voluntary measures with no location limit
2015	Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Bill (HR 2280) introduced, 10% clear glass below 40', 40% above
2015	Highland Park, IL adopts requirements for all buildings
2016	Richmond adopts ordinance, treat first 6 stories near open spaces, residential panes 24 sq ft
2016	California Academy of Sciences study (Kahle et al) - mitigation is required all year here, low rise buildings need to be treated, and most victims in the study were hummingbirds
2018	Alameda adopts ordinance, no location limit, treat residential panes 12 sq feet
2019	Berkeley committee approves ordinance, no location limit, residential panes 8 sq ft
2019	Science publishes estimate that since 1970 bird populations in US and Canada have declined by 29%, almost 4 billion birds, hundreds of species, shorebirds by a third.

Note: Much of this information is from Seewagen, C. L. and Christine Sheppard, 2017. *Bird collisions with windows: An annotated bibliography*. American Bird Conservancy, Washington, DC. 41 pages.