

YOU HEAR A LOUD THUD AT YOUR LIVING ROOM WINDOW. LOOKING UP, YOU SEE A FEW TINY FEATHERS STUCK TO THE GLASS. OTHERS DRIFT SLOWLY TO THE GROUND. ONE MORE BIRD HAS BEEN STRUCK DOWN IN A COLLISION WITH A PLATE-GLASS WINDOW.

Making Your Windows Safe for Birds

Bird-window crashes are an all too-common phenomenon. These collisions usually involve small birds, such as finches, that fall unnoticed to the ground. Sometimes the birds are merely stunned and recover in a few moments. Often, however, they die. The number of birds killed by collisions with windows is staggering—estimates range as high as 100 million per year. Does this mean that you should stop feeding birds? Not at all. It means that if you notice birds striking your windows, you should take steps to eliminate the problem.

Some Solutions

- Move feeders to new locations. Usually bird strikes occur at just one or two windows. Moving feeders away from them may solve the problem entirely.
- Place feeders closer to the glass. If a feeder is just a foot or two from a window, panicked birds may still fly into it, but they probably won't have enough momentum to injure themselves.
- Alter the windows' appearance. If you don't want to move your feeders, or if relocating them doesn't solve your problem, you'll need to alter the appearance of the offending windows. But to do this, you'll need to figure out why the collisions are occurring. Ask some questions. Are birds confused because the window is reflecting the landscape behind it? Is the glass so transparent they think it isn't there? To find out, you'll need to get a bird's-eye view.



Evidence of a mourning dove hitting a window. Photo by Terry Gray.

Take a Bird's-Eye View See-Through Glass

Go to your feeder and look at your window. Can you see through it? If so, the birds can, too. Is there a plant or something else inside the house that might be attractive to birds? If so, try moving it. Is there another window on the opposite side of the house, creating the illusion of a fly-through passage? Try making your windows less transparent by changing the lighting inside the house—pull a shade or open or close a door. You can also make glass less transparent by taping paper or cardboard to the inside of the panes. This is unsightly, but it's a good temporary measure until you can find a better solution. Commercially available hawk silhouettes are effective at deterring window strikes, as long as you use several. They work not because they look like hawks, but because they break up the window's appearance.

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5 Watchable Wildlife Opportunities

A bird's-eye view into flight hazards near your home.

From hikes to bagpipes and hummingbird banding to canoeing, you will be sure to find an event that may interest you!

How Idaho Power and Audubon help to provide wildlife watching opportunities throughout the state.

Another possible solution is to put up a commercially available bird decal or white zig-zag from the center of an orbital spider's web. (see: <http://www.fatrobin.com/window%20decals.html> and <http://thenaturestore.com/zz240498.htm>) It is thought that spiders create the highly visible zig-zag so birds and large insects will avoid flying into and destroying their webs. Note: Do not attach objects directly to thermopane windows without consulting the manufacturer.

Screens and Netting

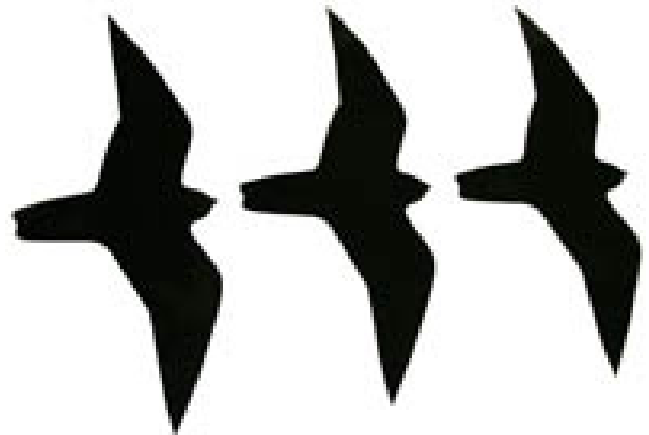
Another solution is to place some kind of screen or netting over the window. This won't obstruct the view—in fact, birds will continue to fly into the window. They should, however, bounce off relatively unharmed. At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, we installed fruit-tree netting, pulling it tightly over the large picture window next to the bird-feeding garden. The result? No more injured birds.

Treating Dazed Birds

Birds don't always die when they strike windows. Sometimes they fly away, apparently unharmed; other times they fall to the ground, stunned. If you find a dazed bird, take it inside where predators can't reach it and place it in a dark container such as a shoe box. The darkness will keep the bird quiet while it revives, which should occur within a few minutes, unless it is seriously injured. Release the bird as soon as it appears awake and alert.



This pine siskin flew into a window and is photographed recovering from the impact. It returned to the bird feeder a couple of minutes later. Photo by Terry Gray.



Bird decals placed on windows help to break up the window's appearance thus deterring window strikes.

Some Related Topics

Home windows aren't the only flying hazard birds face, of course. A couple of other dangers include blind collisions with tall buildings and towers. Migrating birds can even be attracted to building and tower lights. For more information on these topics, go to the following web sites: <http://towerkill.com> and <http://www.flap.org>

Summary and Reminder

You might not always see or hear birds striking your windows. Check the ground below your windows periodically. If you find dead birds, move your feeders or modify the windows. Birds face plenty of natural dangers. Let's not subject them to unnatural ones.



Summer *Wildlife Events*

Avimor Bird Walks-

Avimor; 18454 N. McLeod Way; Boise, ID;
(208) 921-1202 ; www.idahobirdingblog.com

Guided bird walks by Avimor resident and bird enthusiast John Shorti. Kids are always welcome. Bring binoculars, dress for weather and wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots. We will meet by the big flag next to the real estate office. Plan for 2-3 hours along the greenbelt & possibly the foothills as well. Contact John Shorti's 208-608-3516 (jshortis@hotmail.com) for information.

From State Hwy 44 take Hwy 55 north towards McCall for approximately 8 miles. Turn right into the development; the entrance is almost immediately after the 52 mile marker post.

July 16: 9-11am

August 13: 8-11am

Boise Watershed-

11818 West Joplin Rd., Boise; <http://www.cityofboise.org/Bee/EnvironmentalEducation>

July 6, 13, 20, 27 and Aug. 3, 10, 17-

WaterShed Wednesday Series every Wednesday from 10am-12pm. Free for all ages. Join us for free activities, movies and more! We'll find out what plants and animals depend on clean water to live.

At 10:15, join us for a hands-on presentation. At 11:00, see and smell the process of wastewater treatment during the treatment plant tour. Closed-toe shoes required for tour, no strollers. There's something for the whole family to enjoy while staying cool this summer. No pre-registration required; come alone, as a family or bring a group of people to share in the experience!

July 16- River and Riparian Residents

Meet and greet the critters that call the Boise River and its riparian habitat their home!

Join local insect enthusiast Leslie Ogden at 10:15 a.m. for a half-mile nature walk down to the Boise River. Look for signs of birds, beavers, foxes and other wildlife, as well as catch and identify macroinvertebrates (water bugs). At 12:00 p.m. Raptor Specialist Trish Nixon from The Peregrine Fund will introduce you to birds of prey commonly found along the Boise River.

Families can also examine the anatomy of local fish and make beautiful fish prints to display at home. Participate in snail races and find out if your snail is the fastest! Practice fly casting with the pros from Trout Unlimited, and learn from Idaho Rivers United ways you can help protect our river residents to ensure they flourish in the future.

August 20- Featuring the Boise WaterShed

Have you experienced all the Boise WaterShed has to offer?

Discover what's new and coming soon! Take the Exhibit Hall Challenge using our interactive, high-tech touchscreen exhibits! Join Eddy's Fin Club, complete several of Eddy's stewardship activities, and earn a prize pack! Explore the waterwise garden, see the center's amazing artwork through the podcast tour, and check out the building's green and energy efficient features.

Become a wastewater expert on a special extended wastewater treatment plant tour from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.! Tour the plant, examine sludge under a microscope, look at biosolids up close, and visit the effluent outfall to see where wastewater returns clean into the Boise River!

Craters of the Moon National Monument

Arco, ID; (208) 527-1300

<http://www.nps.gov/crmo/index.htm>

Daily - Ranger guided Walks and Talks: Climb a volcano, explore a lava tube or join us for an evening presentation in the campground. Walks and talks and Junior Ranger activities are offered daily throughout the summer. Look for a detailed schedule at: <http://www.nps.gov/crmo/planyourvisit/events.htm>

July 2 - Big Cinder Butte Hike: 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m., 6 miles This strenuous hike around our tallest cinder cone will involve some rugged off-trail hiking. Hiking boots, hat, pack, lunch and plenty of water are required. Sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm and a hiking staff are recommended. RSVP by calling 208-527-1335.

July 9 - Winter in July Presentation: 11 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Chill out with a special presentation about winter in the park in our air conditioned auditorium at the park visitor center. Learn about how animals and people adapt and thrive in our frigid winter temperatures.

July 16 - Moonlight Hike: 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., 4 miles Explore Craters of the Moon Wilderness by the light of the full moon. Learn about our lunar connections to this unearthly landscape. Bring a dependable flashlight, water and wear sturdy boots. Meet at the Tree Molds parking lot. RSVP by calling 208-527-1335.

July 16 & 17 - Geology Seminar and Teacher's Workshop: Got volcanoes?...Take an in-depth look at the geologic processes that formed and continue to influence the landscape of the monument and the Snake River Plain. College credit is available for educators. RSVP by calling our Education Specialist at 208-527-1331.

July 23 - Pioneer Mountains Hike: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Experience a different side of the park on this hike past cinder cones and Little Cottonwood Creek into the Pioneer Mountains. We will travel through a shady streamside habitat and perhaps

have the opportunity to see a moose. Carry water, sunscreen, and pack a lunch. RSVP by calling 208-527-1335.

July 30 - Geology Hike: 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 4 miles Learn about the geology of Craters of the Moon by joining the Park Geologist on a series of short hikes. Wear hiking boots and bring a pack, lunch, water and a flashlight for exploring a lava tube. RSVP by calling 208-527-1335.

Foothills Learning Center

3188 Sunset Peak Rd., Boise; (208) 514-3755

<http://www.cityofboise.org/Bee/Foothills/index.aspx>

SUNSET SERIES: No cost or registration is required. All programs are from 7-8.30pm. Please leave pets at home.

July 13- Bits and Pieces: Mosaic Art

Local mosaic artist Reham Aarti will help us create a beautiful piece of art using pre-cut tumbled glass. Note: class size is limited and there is a small fee for materials. Call 493-2530 to register and we'll direct you how to pre-pay your \$15 fee.

July 28 - The Hills Are Alive With The Sound Of Bagpipes!

Ron Lopez and Friends were such a hit last year we're bringing them back for a repeat performance. Evening bagpipes in the foothills are a thrill you shouldn't miss!

2nd SATURDAY SERIES: No cost or registration is required. Activities for adults and children! All programs are from 10am-2pm. Please leave pets at home.

July 9- Bees!

More and more folks in the Treasure Valley are discovering the benefits of keeping bees. Come learn more about these fascinating and useful creatures. See an active hive. Experience the fashionable outfits and simple tools that make bee-keeping happen. Do some fun crafts and taste local honey. Pollinators like bees are what make agriculture and home gardening really work - and the more you know, the better your gardens. All ages welcome.

STORY TRAIL SERIES: We invite you to wander the trail, read some fun nature related stories and look for the many different foothills plants and animals that live here. Each month a different story will be posted on our ten reading platforms. The trail is open sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. The trail begins in the northwest corner of the parking lot with the Dandelion Sculpture.

July: [Stellaluna](#)

August: [Hey, Little Ant](#)

September: [Hawk, I'm your Brother](#)

Idaho Bird Observatory-



Boise; (208) 426-4354
<http://www.idahobirdobservatory.org>

Hummingbird Banding at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival Facilities, 5657 Warm Springs Ave., Boise

July 9, 23 and Aug 6, 20 and maybe Sept 3

Come and join us for IBO's Hummingbird Banding session! There will be opportunities to see and photograph the tiny hummers up close, and maybe even hold one as it is released. Its a great time for families and people of any age group

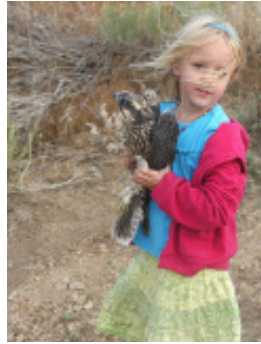
We find that most of our hummers are caught early, and we don't really catch many after about 10AM, so you might want to show up early rather than late.

All banding days are weather depending, so please check our facebook status updates the night before to make sure we don't have to cancel because of rain!



Fall Migration Banding & Monitoring at Lucky Peak Daily from July 16- Oct. 31

The IBO's longest-running research and education effort is a fall migration project located at Lucky Peak, just outside of Boise. It is one of only a few known sites in the western U.S. where great numbers of diurnal raptors, songbirds, and forest owls concentrate during fall migration. This site presents a unique opportunity to study the migration biology of many different kinds of birds in one locality. Studies have identified important habitats used by migrants, breeding and wintering areas, and contribute to long-term population monitoring. The site offers a unique opportunity for wildlife viewing.



For driving directions and more information, visit: www.idahobirdobservatory.org/visit.html

Silver Creek Preserve-

Hwy 20, mp 184.5; Picabo, ID; (208) 788-7910
<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/usa/idaaho/index.htm>

The Nature Conservancy is celebrating 35 years at Silver Creek this year! In addition to our regular nature walks on Saturdays (every Saturday at the visitor center at 9:30 starting at the end of May), we will be hosting a variety of fun events through the summer. Attached is a list. Silver Creek Preserve is a great place to bring kids, so bring the whole family!! There are nice picnic spots on the visitor center deck so feel free to bring your lunch and hang out awhile.

July 9th- Canoe float with the Ketchum heritage museum, call to register.

July 14th- Watercolors and wine on the porch of the visitor center. Learn techniques and talk color over a glass of wine. 6-8 pm.

August 27th- End of summer canoe float, call to register.



Thank You
to
All Contributors

The following people made direct donations, purchased or renewed a wildlife license plate, or let us know of a tax check-off donation between April 2011 through June 2011.

This list represents those who marked the contributor box when they donated to the Wildlife Diversity Program. However, many subscribers not listed here have contributed generously and Idaho's nongame wildlife thanks you ALL!

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Todd + Babette Banducci | Ronald Panter |
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| Sharon Dobrovlny | Jennifer Robbins Smith |
| Clover Field | Eileen Stukel |
| Chris Hood | Angie Calligan Tucker |
| Doris Pannell | |

Also, a special thanks to those that donated money to IDFG using the nongame wildlife tax check off on their tax forms.

In the last issue of Windows to Wildlife we shared with you how our Watchable Wildlife Committee members help to enhance your wildlife viewing opportunities locally and around the state. We just didn't have enough room for all the great content...so now we are expanding to include two more of our members whose organizations help to bring you memorable wildlife viewing experiences. Enjoy!

Golden Eagle Audubon

www.goldeneagleaudubon.org



Golden Eagle Audubon Society (GEAS) is southwestern Idaho's chapter of the National Audubon Society, a non-profit organization. We are dedicated to building an understanding and appreciation of the natural world. GEAS promotes environmental awareness through field trips, local programs, and volunteer work.

Some of the activities that we are involved in include:

- Monthly programs and lectures about birds and nature
- Several field trips per month for bird-watching and nature
- Financial support and sponsorship of the Bird by Bird program which uses bird watching and bird feeding to connect school children with nature.
- Financial support of the Idaho Bird Observatory. Also, GEAS organizes at least three field trips each fall to observe and participate in the bird observatory's research and monitoring at Lucky Peak.
- Collaboration with other government and conservation organizations to protect and enhance natural areas for bird and wildlife habitat (for example, Blacks Creek Reservoir clean-up, Hyatt Wetlands, etc.)
- Audubon volunteers participate in community events such as Christmas Bird Counts, Bald Eagle Days, International Migratory Bird Day, and Bio-Blitz.
- Financial support of bluebird research, etc.



Field trip to Daggett Creek. Photo by Stephany Erwin.

Idaho Power Company

www.idahopower.com/OurEnvironment/default.cfm

Idaho Power manages more than 30,000 acres of wildlife habitat to compensate for impacts its hydroelectric projects may be having.

On these lands, company biologists are restoring:

- degraded annual grasslands into native habitat,
- producing specialty wildlife food plots,
- enhancing riparian areas by planting trees and shrubs,
- reducing erosion along shorelines, and
- controlling noxious weeds.

Biologists at Idaho Power closely monitor fish populations, winter populations and nesting productivity of bald eagles in the Hells Canyon Complex, as well as any affects our activities may be having on sensitive species such as the Columbia spotted frogs.

Idaho Power strives to provide a high quality experience to visitors of these lands. Hunters, fisherman, birders, and other recreationists benefit from the improved habitat, increased diversity of wildlife, and the variety of interpretive and educational panels and brochures found at many of our parks and facilities. CJ Strike Wildlife Management Area and Hells Canyon are two wonderful places to view a variety of birds and other wildlife. We've recently developed two birding checklist brochures for these areas that are available to the public at each visitor center as well as on the Idaho Power website:

http://www.idahopower.com/pdfs/ourEnvironment/brochures/CJS_BIRDING_CHECKLIST_CID50480_2011.pdf

<http://www.idahopower.com/pdfs/ourEnvironment/hcBirdCheckList.pdf>

Some other activities we are involved in include:

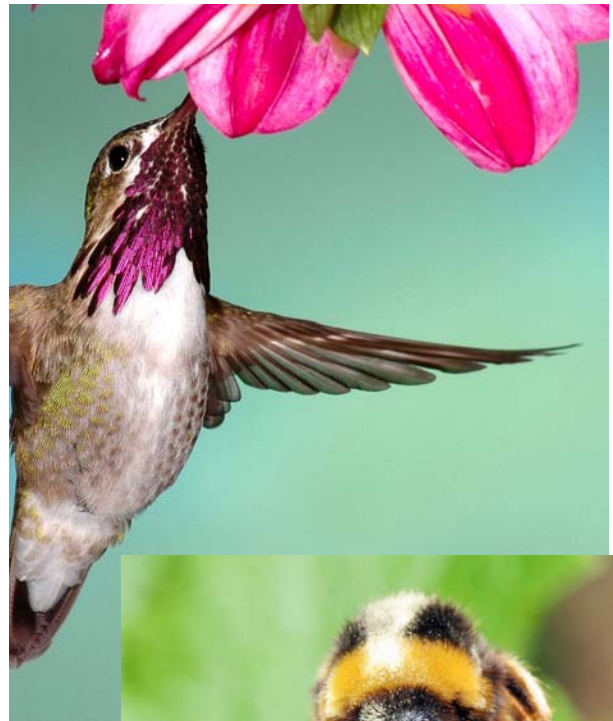
- Financial support and sponsorship for various environmental education community events and programs such as the recent "Free Family Field Trip Saturday at the World Center for Birds of Prey"
- Our avian protection plan that we developed in order to protect birds of prey that sometimes interact with our electric system.
- Classroom visits by some of our biologists to talk about some of our environmental stewardship activities
- Serving on the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Watchable Wildlife Committee

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- Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
- Idaho Power
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

