

call to Feather Friendly helped me figure out precisely how many rolls I needed. My south-facing living room window was a "must do" but I had to figure out which others also needed coverage.

Assessing Which Windows Need Tape

Not every window presents the same reflective problem to birds. Besides the stark reality of a dead avian friend below a window, you can make a fairly accurate assessment of the "death trap potential" of each window by walking around outside to look critically at every window several days per week in all kinds of weather during all four seasons for a year. Directional orientation, sun angle, presence of trees nearby, plants inside, drapes and blinds, and other factors all have an influence. If you see a reflection of the outside, that is what the bird sees: a fly-through. Keep in mind that the bird is coming straight on at eye-level with the window sometimes at a height much greater than your own; think second story windows.

After applying the tape, as the photo from inside the home indicates, the dots do not significantly obstruct the view or reduce your bird-viewing pleasure. It is as if your brain just doesn't even see the grid of dots anymore.

When your window needs assessment is done and mailing fees and taxes added, some find the investment quite costly. If I had had doubts, these disappeared in a puff on tiny feathers when a second bird death occurred, that of a beautiful Ovenbird before I had a chance to apply my tape.

Since installing the grid system last year, the Nature Miramichi members who purchased the tape have never had another bird strike. Both families attract a rich array of feathered friends year-round to their numerous feeders.



Above: This window has the grid tape on it, but as you can see, it is nearly invisible when looking out from the inside.

Of course there are other bird-strike prevention options out there. The company we chose to purchase from, Feather Friendly, is Canadian and endorsed by FLAP (Flight Light Awareness Program) and several other North American bird conservation organizations, and we knew others who had used their products.

Resources

You can find lots of info on this general subject on the internet as well as on the Feather Friendly and FLAP websites. FLAP has a free online building self-assessment tool to help you understand the risk that each of your home's windows presents to birds. There are many additional preventative measures you can take to protect birds flying by your house as well as those you attract with your feeders, fountains and bird-loving plants. Do your part to enhance your enjoyment of these fascinating creatures who add so much to the beauty of our world and our sense of well-being.