



# Global Bird Rescue

## Manual

October 3- 9, 2022

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# What is Global Bird Rescue?

*Global Bird Rescue* is an annual event hosted by FLAP Canada to raise awareness about one of the leading causes of bird deaths across the globe: collisions with buildings. Each year in late September/early October, teams and individuals take to the streets to search for and rescue birds that have collided with buildings in their communities. A major aim of the event is to inspire participants to protect local and migrating birds by making windows bird-safe.

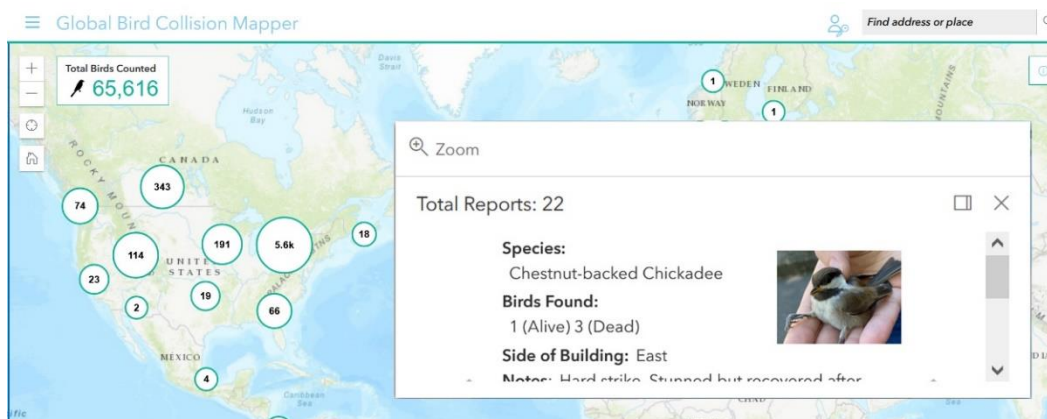
Using the [Global Bird Collision Mapper](#), participants are able to report the location, status, species, and photos of the birds they rescue or recover. This community science tool shows every reported collision on its interactive GIS map in real time, providing invaluable data for a greater understanding of the bird-building collision issue.

Additionally, by encouraging people to search for birds, we hope to increase the chances of finding live birds sooner, increasing the likelihood that they will be successfully rehabilitated and released.

Global Bird Rescue is now in its fifth year and is steadily gaining momentum! Last year a total of 517 birds were rescued during the event. Fifty teams from twelve different countries reported a total of 1764 collisions.

## Why Should I Participate?

Bird populations around the world are declining at an alarming rate, and window collisions are a leading cause of death for migratory and resident birds globally. In North America, approximately 3 billion fewer birds grace our skies and forests today than 50 years ago. By participating, your actions could mean the difference between life and death for a bird. You can be an integral part of the solution. Data entered into the Global Bird Collision Mapper will help us better understand the extent of the bird-collision issue and provide data for effective advocacy for bird-safe practices.



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# About FLAP Canada



[FLAP Canada](#), a registered Canadian charity, is widely recognized as the pre-eminent authority on the bird-building collision issue. For almost 30 years, FLAP Canada has engaged millions of people with dozens of campaigns and initiatives with one goal: keep birds safe from deadly collisions with buildings.

## Our Mission

FLAP Canada is dedicated to safeguarding migratory birds in the built environment through education, policy development, research, rescue, and rehabilitation.



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# Event Guidelines

- Your safety comes first! Do not patrol areas where you might risk your safety. Be respectful of private property. Get permission to patrol private sites.
- Please be aware of health recommendations from your local government and public health authorities. If you have been advised to stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, consider monitoring your home or apartment building for bird collisions instead.
- Avian Flu has also become a threat in many countries this year. If you are in a location where Avian Flu has been detected, we recommend wearing gloves to pick up live and dead birds, as well as good hand hygiene such as frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing between handling live birds. We also recommend that you do not reuse any bags or boxes used to contain live birds to reduce the chances of cross contamination. If you have pet birds at home, it is recommended to wash hands thoroughly, or even change clothes before interacting with them. Frequent sanitation of any equipment used is also recommended. [More information from the CDC](#).
- Any bird that has collided with glass could have sustained internal injuries, which are difficult to spot. Even birds that can fly away from you can be seriously injured. Should you find an injured bird, we recommend that you immediately contact your local licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility. They can treat the bird for any injuries or provide you with other options should you not have a rehabilitation facility nearby (find helpful links in the “Resources” section).
- Please find helpful information on reducing stress in injured birds on page 8.
- Take a picture of your bird! A photo can help identify the bird species, and help you remember exactly where you found it. Avoid taking pictures of members of the public, entire buildings, and recognizable company logos.
- Be respectful towards wildlife. Do not take selfies with dead or injured birds.
- Enter all of your collision reports in the [Global Bird Collision Mapper](#).

# Roles of the Participant


- All participants must register in the [Global Bird Collision Mapper](#).
- You can participate as an individual or create a GBR Team by submitting the “[GBR Team Registration Form](#)” at [globalbirdrescue.org](http://globalbirdrescue.org) or by emailing us at [mapper@flap.org](mailto:mapper@flap.org).
- GBR Teams are encouraged to engage with and educate their communities about the issue of bird-building collisions through various social media tools:
  1. Use the official hashtag #GlobalBirdRescue.
  2. Post photos of rescued birds on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.
  3. Share posts about the event from our [Instagram](#), our [Twitter](#), and our [Facebook page](#).
- Participants are responsible for the safety of all birds in their care and for following local laws and guidelines pertaining to the handling of wildlife.
- Please make sure you enter your collision reports in the Global Bird Collision Mapper promptly and as accurately as possible.
- When referring to your team on social media or during media interviews, be sure to describe yourself as “GBR Team – [Team Name]”



# About the Global Bird Collision Mapper

The [Global Bird Collision Mapper \(GBCM\)](https://birdmapper.org) is an online geo-mapping tool designed for registered users to report the locations of bird collisions with buildings and is available on desktop and mobile devices. The database is international and can be seen by anyone who visits the webpage.


## Creating an Account

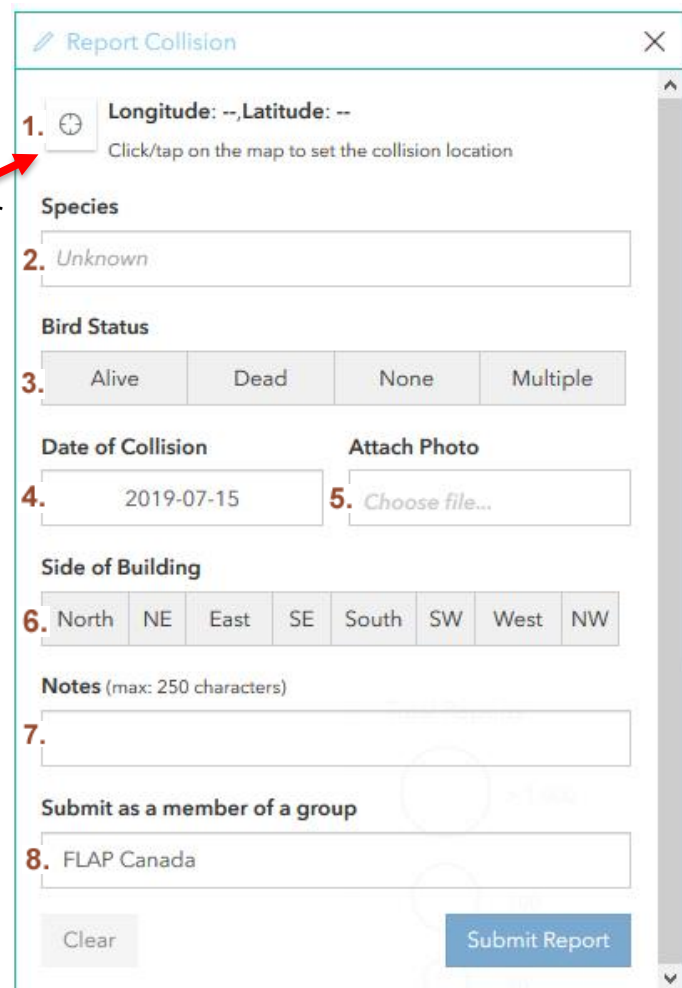
- Visit [birdmapper.org](https://birdmapper.org), and register an account using the  symbol in the top right corner.

## Reporting a Collision

- Select the menu  in the top left corner.
- Select *Report a Collision*.

If you need to keep an address private, please select the middle of the closest intersection for the collision location instead of the exact building address.

1. Select location by either:
  - zooming in on the map and selecting the desired location by using the + or – icons on the left side of the map,
  - finding your current location using , or
  - typing in an address in the search bar at the top right of the site.
2. Search for the species by its common name and click on it when it pops up. If you don't know the species, leave this field 'Unknown'.
3. Click on the status of the bird as either alive (seen, rescued, or escaped), dead, none (no birds found at all) or multiple (multiple birds of the same species alive OR dead).
4. Select the date.
5. Attach a photo to aid in identification.
6. Select the side of the building where the bird was found.
7. Optional: include detailed field notes.
8. You can choose to submit your records as a member of a group or as an individual.



The screenshot shows the 'Report Collision' form with the following fields and callouts:

- 1. Longitude: --, Latitude: -- (with a map icon and instruction: Click/tap on the map to set the collision location)
- 2. Species: Unknown
- 3. Bird Status: Alive, Dead, None, Multiple
- 4. Date of Collision: 2019-07-15
- 5. Attach Photo: Choose file...
- 6. Side of Building: North, NE, East, SE, South, SW, West, NW
- 7. Notes (max: 250 characters):
- 8. Submit as a member of a group: FLAP Canada

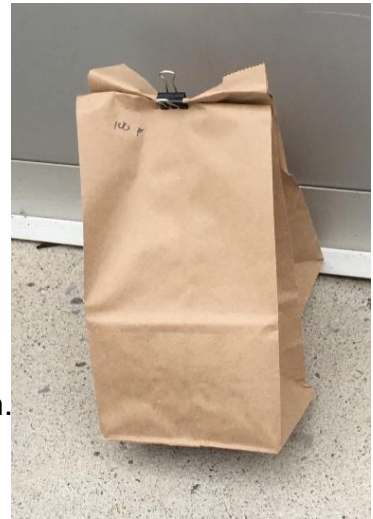
Buttons: Clear, Submit Report

Issues? Frequently Asked Questions can be found at [globalbirdrescue.org](https://globalbirdrescue.org).

# How to Rescue Birds

## Supplies

- Brown non-waxed paper lunch bags for smaller birds, paper grocery bags or cardboard boxes for larger birds.
- Clips to secure the bags, such as paper clips or small binder clips.
- Tissue or paper towels to line the bag and give something for the bird to grip with its feet, or to create a 'nest' shape when the bird cannot stand on its own. To do this roll up your tissue/ paper towel into a donut shape that will support the bird on all sides.
- Butterfly net to catch birds if needed.
- Disposable gloves to handle dead birds and plastic bags hold them.
- Notebook to record collision data, or a phone to input collision data directly into the Global Bird Collision Mapper.
- Camera to take photos of downed birds for identification purposes.
- Phone numbers of local wildlife rehabilitation centers.
- Masks and other COVID-19 protection if recommended in your area.



## Searching for Birds

- Most birds will be found on the ground up to 1.5m (5') from the base of a building.
- Walk close to and parallel to the building. This way, if you startle a bird, it will tend to fly parallel to and away from the building.
- Check in small nooks where injured birds may hide.

## Catching a Bird

- Have a paper bag expanded and ready to go with a tissue on the bottom.
- Approach the bird from behind, making sure to walk parallel to the window.
- Move deliberately but slowly and carefully so as not to scare the bird.
- A stunned bird on the ground can be captured using your hands or a net.
- When using your hands, enclose the bird gently with both hands, ensuring the bird cannot escape. Do not hold too tightly as this can cause injury or prevent the bird from breathing.
- When using a net, be careful not to hit the bird with the net's rim. Once the bird is under the net, you may put your hands under the net and grasp the bird with two hands. Make sure that the bird's toenails are not caught in the net, and if they are, unhook them very gently without pulling on the bird's foot.
- Gently place the bird inside the bag and secure the bag shut. The bag does not need air holes provided you are using non-waxed paper bags.



## Tips

- If disoriented birds are flying close to a building, it is best to stand back until they settle.
- Occasionally, birds of prey such as hawks or falcons collide with buildings. Extreme caution and specialized equipment is needed when handling injured birds of prey. Call a wildlife rehabilitation center for help. A towel, blanket, or box can be placed over the bird until help arrives. [Click here](#) for additional instructions from the Toronto Wildlife Centre.
- Woodpecker species should be placed in boxes as they can peck through paper bags and escape.
- Hummingbirds can go into a state of torpor when injured and may look dead. Treat all hummingbirds found as alive and place them paper bags just to be safe.



## Stress

Birds are already experiencing stress from possible injury, dehydration, or exhaustion. This stress can decrease their chances of survival. To minimize stress on birds, we suggest:

- **Do not provide food or water** as an injured bird may choke or drown. Eating or drinking can also worsen internal injuries, so it is always best to speak to a wildlife rehabilitation facility first.
- Talk quietly or not at all.
- Avoid direct eye contact with the bird.
- Keep handling to a minimum and move the bird as little as possible.
- Keep the bird in a warm, dark, and quiet place when contained.
- Transport the bird to wildlife rehabilitation facility as quickly as possible.
- When transporting a bird in a vehicle, do not turn on the radio or talk loudly.

Signs of an overly stressed bird include:

- Rapid open-mouthed breathing (i.e., panting).
- Shutting one or both eyes.

- Not being able to hold their head up.

## Trauma

Stunned birds can often appear to have no obvious injuries. An injured bird can also appear to be dead. If a bird is still warm but is not moving, it is best to place this bird in a paper bag as it may still be alive and in shock. A cold or stiff bird is a sure sign that the bird has died. Although we recommend that all birds that have hit windows be taken to a wildlife rehabilitation facility for assessment and treatment, the following signs of trauma indicate an especially urgent need to seek help:

- Unable to hold head up
- Unable to stand up
- No response to sound or visual movement
- Not trying to escape (just sitting on a hand)
- Bulging “frog” eye(s)
- Heavy, noisy, clicking, or open-beak breathing
- Broken beak, wing, or leg
- Entangled in spider webbing and loose debris such as human hair, thread, or string
- Bleeding



© Kaitlin Brough

Trauma: Unable to stand on both feet



© Sara Scharf

Trauma: Broken wing



© FLAP Canada

Stress: Keeping eyes shut



© Sara Scharf

Stress: Open-mouthed breathing

# Laws and Regulations

There are laws and permitting processes in place to protect migratory birds in both Canada and the United States. The volunteers who patrol for FLAP Canada for example operate under a Canadian Wildlife Service permit that allows them to handle and collect birds that are injured or killed in window collisions.

A citizen without a permit is prohibited from possessing a migratory bird, its nest, or eggs, or buying/selling/exchanging a migratory bird, its nest, or eggs. There are allowances to temporarily hold on to an injured bird in order to transport it to a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

As a GBR participant, is it your responsibility to understand and follow the laws surrounding wildlife in your country.

## **What does this mean for rescuing wild birds?**

Research and locate your closest wildlife rehabilitation facility before participating in GBR. That way, should you find an injured bird, you are prepared to contact and transport that bird to rehab immediately.

If you have found a dead bird while participating in GBR and do not possess the permits to retain the bird, we recommend that you either leave the bird where you found it, place it under a shrub or tree, bury the bird, or, if it is in good condition, contact your local natural history museum to donate the specimen.

# Resources

## **Bird-Building Collisions**

[Flap Canada](#)

[BirdSafe](#)

## **Bird Identification:**

[All About Birds](#)

[Merlin](#)

[Audubon](#)

[BirdsEye](#)

[The Birder's Library](#)

[iNaturalist](#)

## **Find a wildlife rehabilitator:**

Ontario, Canada:

[Ontario Wildlife Rescue](#)

Canada:

[Humane Society of Canada](#)

United States:

[State Agency Lists of Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitators](#)

[Animal Help Now](#)

Worldwide:

For assistance with wildlife conflicts outside of North America, contact local, regional, or national animal advocacy organizations for their recommendations.

(FLAP Canada cannot endorse or recommend any of the links in the references; therefore, mention of specific links in this manual cannot be construed as an endorsement or recommendation. We recommend you thoroughly research any organization or individual.)