

# Our Solution

Since 1997, New York City Audubon's Project Safe Flight has protected migrating birds by:

- Establishing *Lights Out NYC*.
- Persuading building managers to retrofit killer windows.
- Compelling government agencies to focus on bird collisions in the environmental assessment process.
- Collaborating with architects and designers to develop new solutions to the glass-collision problem.
- Keeping the bird-collision issue in the public eye.



The reflective glass windows that killed this golden-crowned kinglet are being made bird-safe.

Rebekah Creshkoff

## If you find an injured bird

1. Gently place it in a brown paper bag with a piece of cloth on the bottom and place in a dark, quiet place.
2. Call NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483.
3. Always wash hands after touching a wild bird.

# How Can I Help?



Cal Vornberger

## It's easy to make a difference:

- Switch off lights or close blinds before leaving your office or apartment.
- Notify NYC Audubon if you see collisions at a particular building.
- Ask your workplace's building manager to participate in *Lights Out NYC*.
- Volunteer with **Project Safe Flight**. People are needed in all five boroughs to monitor buildings and help with educational outreach, media relations, and advocacy.
- Join NYC Audubon. Benefits include field trips, lectures, *The Urban Audubon* newsletter and more. To join, visit [www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org).

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NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON

# Project Safe Flight



Sharon Kass

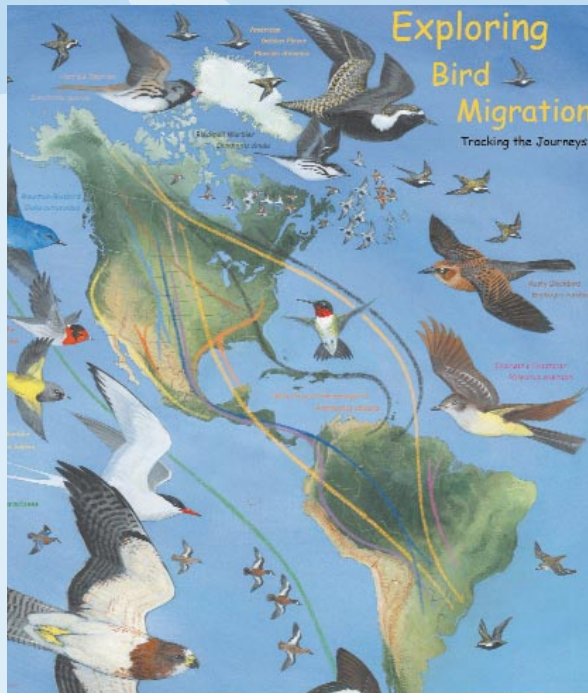
Making New York City safer  
for migrating birds

# The Mystery of Migration

For birds, New York City is like Grand Central Station. Just as thousands of commuters pass through the train terminal, millions of birds pass over the city during their seasonal migrations. They travel at night, guided by the moon, stars, and Earth's magnetic field.

Each fall, 300 species—one-third of all the birds in North America—fly over New York City on their way to their wintering areas. Each spring, they return to their northern breeding grounds.

Linking states, nations, and continents, these winged ambassadors achieve awe-inspiring feats of endurance and navigation. For some species, the round trip can be more than 13,000 miles.



Map created for International Migratory Bird Day by Ram Papish. Posters of the original map are available at [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org).

# A Two-Part Problem



Rebekah Creshkoff

Nocturnal migrants can be attracted to city lights like moths to a flame—especially on cloudy or foggy nights. Helplessly circling in the light, the “trapped” birds deplete their energy reserves and run the risk of colliding with buildings. Both exterior and interior lighting are problematic.

Eventually, the exhausted migrants need to rest and refuel. Seeking food and shelter, they drop down to a street tree, planter, or roof garden. But these bits of habitat are no safe refuge, for now the weary travelers are surrounded by a confusing maze of glass and reflections.

## Collisions by the numbers

Birds nationwide killed yearly by flying into glass	1 billion+
Species nationwide killed by flying into glass	225
Birds found to have flown into windows in NYC	4,000+*
Species killed by glass collisions in NYC	100+
Birds rescued by NYC Audubon's <b>Project Safe Flight</b>	700+

\*Since monitoring began in 1997. Only a handful of buildings are checked; most victims are never found.



Leonard Friedland

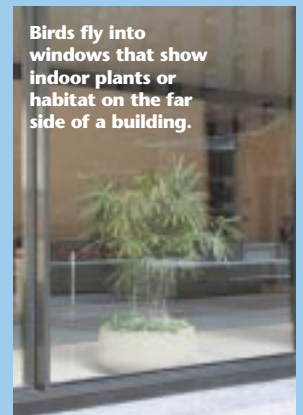
Birds are unable to perceive glass as a solid barrier. Glass is doubly deceptive. Birds fly into:

- **Reflective** windows that mirror trees and sky
- **Transparent** windows that show indoor plants or a flight path through a building

Glass atriums and pedestrian overpasses are just as deadly as windows.

Glass is an indiscriminate killer. It takes both weak and strong, young and old, male and female, common and rare. It takes residents, like cardinals and red-tailed hawks, as well as migrants.

Glass is a universal hazard. The only birds that are safe are those that don't live or migrate near buildings. After habitat loss, collisions with glass pose the single greatest human-related threat to birds.



Rebekah Creshkoff