Bird-Safe Buildings Activity Guide
What makes windows dangerous for birds?

Birds can’t see glass! When flying, a bird might hit a window it never knows it is there.

YOU can be a superhero and help make a difference for the birds in your neighborhood!
Part 1: Watch Windows

Question: How do you know which windows are dangerous?

Answer: Learn to identify Watch Windows! Watch windows are...
...windows that are really **reflective**, like a mirror

...windows that are really **transparent** that you can see through easily
...windows with a lot of *bright light* shining out of them

...windows close to bird *habitats* or bird baths and feeders
Activity 1: Observe the windows around your house at different times of day to help you identify Watch Windows.

Instructions:
• Walk around your house at different times of day in the morning, afternoon, evening, and at night
• Observe which windows have the characteristics you just learned about: reflectiveness, transparency, closeness to bird habitat, and bright lights.
• Use the following sheets to write down your observations!
Example: **Kitchen Window**

**Window 1:**

- **Reflective**
- **Transparent**
- **Light**
- **Bird Habitat**
Score Sheet

Window 1: ____ checks out of 16

Window 2: ____ checks out of 16

Window 3: ____ checks out of 16

Windows with 8 checks or more are Watch Windows.

Which windows are Watch Windows?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Part 2: Bird-Safe Windows

Question: How do I turn a Watch Window into a Bird-Safe Window?

Answer: Learn about Super Saver techniques that you can use to make your windows Bird-Safe.
**Tempera (Washable) Paint**

Draw on outside of window glass using **tempera paint**. Make sure your design covers most of the window and doesn’t leave large spaces.

*Good for Watch Windows that are...*
- Reflective
- Transparent
- Good for showing off your artwork

**UV Markers**

Draw on outside of window glass using **UV Markers**. Birds can see UV…but we can’t! Make sure your design covers most of the window and doesn’t leave large spaces.

*Good for Watch Windows that are...*
- Transparent
- In an area where you don’t want humans to see your drawings
Dish Soap
Rub dish soap all over the outside of window glass, making sure the whole area is covered.

*Good for Watch Windows that are...*
- Reflective
- Transparent

Curtains
Close the curtains or blinds, especially at night! This simple fix can make a big difference.

*Good for Watch Windows that are...*
- Transparent
- Brightly lit

Turn off the Lights
Turn off the lights at night! Not only does this save electricity, but this simple fix can make a big difference for birds.

*Good for Watch Windows that are...*
- Transparent
- Brightly lit
Window Strings

Hang *strings or cords* across the outside of a window to make a stripe pattern.

*Good for Watch Windows that are...*
- Reflective
- Transparent
- Brightly lit

Window Decals

Put *window decals* on the outside of window glass in a pattern. Try to make sure the decals are no more than 2 inches apart from each other.

*Good for Watch Windows that are...*
- Reflective
- Transparent
- Brightly lit
Activity 2: Circle ALL of the **Super Savers** that would help to solve the Watch Window issue.

- Reflectiveness
- Transparency
- Brightly-lit
Activity 3: Make a plan to turn Watch Windows into Bird-Safe Windows by using one of the Super Savers!

Instructions:
• Make sure you have permission from an adult before starting
• Circle the Super Saver (or multiple Super Savers!) you will use for each Watch Window that you identified in Activity 1.
• Draw a plan for each window!
Example: Kitchen Window

Window 1: ___________

Window 2: ___________

Window 3: ___________
Congratulations! You are now officially a Bird-Safe Buildings Hero! Thanks for making a difference for the birds who share our habitat.

Want to learn more? Visit https://tucsonaudubon.org/window-strikes/
Activity 2: ANSWERS

Reflectiveness

Transparency

Brightly-lit