BIRD-SAFE WINDOW ACTIVITY GUIDE
Taylor Rubin, Volunteer & Education Manager
(trubin@tucsonaudubon.org)

Olya WeeKley, Community Science Coordinator
(oweekley@tucsonaudubon.org)

Bea Mendivil, Education Coordinator
(bmendivil@tucsonaudubon.org)
What makes windows dangerous for birds?

Birds can’t see glass! When flying, a bird might hit a window it doesn’t know 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 Window:
Kitchen Window

Window 1:

Reflective  □ Bird Habitat
Transparent □ Light

Reflective  □ Bird Habitat
Transparent □ Light

Reflective  □ Bird Habitat
Transparent □ Light

Reflective  □ Bird Habitat
Transparent □ Light

Reflective  □ Bird Habitat
Transparent □ Light
Window 2:

- Reflective
- Transparent
- Light

Window 3:

- Reflective
- Transparent
- Light
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 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
Draw on Watch 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
Rub dish soap all over window glass (on the outside of your house).

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
Window Strings

Hang the string outside your window in a striped 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 a few inches apart from each other.

Good for Watch Windows that are...
- Reflective
- Transparent
- Brightly lit
Turn off the lights at night! Not only does this save electricity, but this simple fix can make a big difference for birds, especially during spring and fall when birds are migrating.

Good for Watch Windows that are...
- 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 Window: Kitchen Window

Window 1:

Window 2:

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

Reflective Window

Transparent Window

Brightly Lit Windows
WANT TO LEARN MORE?
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

https://tucsonaudubon.org/window-strikes/