

## **DEAD TREES ARE ANYTHING BUT DEAD**

Dead trees provide vital habitat for more than 1000 species of wildlife nationwide. The two most common types of dead wood you'll find are snags (upright) and logs (on the ground). If you look closely enough, you can find these "dead" trees teeming with life.

### **Atop**

Summer is a great time to find reptiles (lizards and turtles) and amphibians (toads and frogs) warming themselves in the sun. You can also find ants, snails, and other insects and invertebrates crawling on the log. Squirrels and chipmunks find fallen logs a fantastic place to rest.

### **Inside**

Logs also provide excellent cover for small mammals such as fox, rabbits, skunks and raccoons. Foxes may use logs as den sites, while for other small mammals it could provide protection from predators.

### **Under**

Beetles, worms, spiders, salamanders, newts, and centipedes all can be found under a log. What you find usually depends on the time of year, weather, moisture, as well as other factors. It is suggested that you roll the log towards you to use it as a barrier and allow critters a chance to get away. To find out more about factors that could affect what you see under a log, please visit this link:

<http://www.coastalplainsreptiles.com/articles/FieldHerping/flipping.htm>

### **Beside**

Snakes will often use the space next to a log to rest or look for food. Logs are excellent places for snakes to find food since they are already crawling with prey. Snakes can also curl up against or inside a log to rest and stay hidden from predators.

### **Attached to**

Moss, fungi, and lichen are a few organisms that can be found growing on logs. These special organisms are able to grow where no other plants are able to grow.

For more information, please visit this link:

<http://blog.nwf.org/2014/07/dead-logs-are-anything-but-dead/>

## HOW TO LIVE RESPONSIBLY WITH WILDLIFE

1. **Hang bird feeders 3 feet or less from windows to prevent collision.**

Why? Window collision is the leading cause of bird mortality – there has been an estimated 100 million to 1 billion bird deaths per year. This often happens when birds are flying to and from feeders and bird baths. We can prevent this by positioning bird feeders and baths 3 feet or less from windows. When feeders are close to windows, birds cannot build enough momentum to injure themselves if they do happen to hit your window. It also provides great birdwatching... right outside your window!

2. **Keep trash and food sources out of reach of Wildlife.**

Animals are attracted to garbage for potential food sources. This can be prevented by storing waste in wildlife-proof containers (metal, sturdy lid). If this is not enough to deter wildlife, try adding motion lights, bungee cords, or a twist on the lid. Finally, put your trash out the morning of a collection instead of at night to avoid a night-time raid.

3. **Supervise your pet cats and dogs.**

Many birds and small mammals are injured by off-leash dogs and especially free-roaming cats. The only solution to prevent pets from injuring or even killing wildlife is to prevent your dogs and cats from chasing, attacking or playing with wildlife. If you are unable to watch your pets outside, consider keeping your cats indoors or dogs on a leash. Cats can be put on leashes too.

4. **Keep dead trees and plant new ones.**

Dead trees (logs and snags) are crawling with life, so consider keeping them. They provide important habitats for over 1,000 species in the US. If you must remove dead trees, please be respectful of any species living inside. You should consider planting new trees as well.

5. **Give wildlife a “brake”.**

Wildlife don't understand the danger of being on the road. When driving in areas with high populations of wild animals or during migrations of certain species, please be alert. You can also advocate for wildlife crossings or corridors.

6. **Respect the “wild” in wildlife.**

It's easy to forget that even if animals aren't deep in the woods, they are still wild. Please never approach, touch, feed or make a pet out of a wild animal. This is considered harassment of wildlife and tends to be illegal, even when it's not. Letting wildlife stay wild gives the animals the space they need to continue their typical behaviors, such as feeding, nesting, and breeding. It also keeps you safe!

7. **Don't litter or spit out gum.**

View the link at the bottom of this page to see a video of someone trying to get gum out of a hummingbird's feathers.

8. **Plant Native.**

Using native plants avoids negative impacts of non-native species. Planting native milkweed is a critical way to help declining monarch populations. (See the next page for native species of milkweeds).

For more information regarding statistics and more tips on living responsibly with wildlife, visit this link:

<http://blog.nwf.org/2015/03/how-to-live-responsibly-alongside-our-wild-neighbors/>

## NATIVE MILKWEEDS FOR MONARCHS

Milkweeds are the host plants that monarchs need to lay their eggs on. When the caterpillars hatch, they eat only milkweeds. Therefore, monarchs cannot survive without milkweed species. Consider planting a species of milkweed in your yard.

### **Common Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*)

**Description:** This tall perennial has large balls of pink or purplish flowers that have an attractive odor. The flowers bloom from June to August.

**Growing Conditions:** Shade intolerant, needs lots of sunlight, moist soil

**Plant Size:** Usually 3-5 feet (90-150 cm), sometimes reaching 8 feet (240 cm) in ditches and gardens

### **Butterflyweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

**Description:** Sometimes called Orange Milkweed, this perennial has large, flat-topped clusters of yellow-orange or bright-orange flowers and blooms May to September.

**Growing Conditions:** Needs sunlight, drought tolerant, dry or moist soil

**Plant Size:** 1-2 ft (30-60 cm)

### **Swamp Milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*)

**Description:** Also known as Pink Milkweed, this perennial has large blossoms composed of small, rose-purple flowers. The deep pink flowers are clustered at the top of a tall, branching stem and bloom June to October.

**Growing Conditions:** Needs lots of water, shade tolerant, moist to wet soil

**Plant Size:** 2-5 ft (60-152 cm)

### **Purple Milkweed** (*Asclepias purpurascens*)

**Description:** The milky juice from this perennial is known to remove warts. The flowers are deep magenta red and bloom May to July.

**Growing Conditions:** Needs sunlight and dry soil

**Plant Size:** 2-4 ft (61 to 122 cm)

### **White Milkweed** (*Asclepias variegata*)

**Description:** This perennial has small white flowers with purplish centers crowded into round, terminal clusters that resemble snowballs and blooms May to September.

**Growing Conditions:** Low water use, dry soil, moderately shade tolerant

**Plant Size:** 1-3 ft (30- 91 cm)

### **Whorled Milkweed** (*Asclepias verticillata*)

**Description:** This single-stemmed perennial has narrow, linear leaves whorled along the stem. Small, greenish-white flowers occur in flat-topped clusters on the upper part of the stem and bloom May to September.

**Growing Conditions:** Low water use, moderately shade tolerant, dry soil

**Plant Size:** 1-3 ft (30- 91 cm)

# DISPELLING MYTHS ABOUT BIRD STRIKES

## What Does NOT Work in Bird-Window Collisions

**Hawk Silhouettes:** A hawk-shaped window decal will not frighten birds. The shape of a window decal is inconsequential in bird/window collision prevention. It's the use of multiple window decals, of any shape, **on the outside of a window** that helps make glass visible to birds.

**Noise Deterrents:** Common noise deterrents include high-frequency ultrasound, noise cannons and the recorded distress calls of various species of birds. In urban settings, these devices are used to deter colonies of resident species like pigeons and starlings from public areas. In rural settings, these products are used in agriculture to prevent birds from destroying crops. They were not intended to prevent bird/window collisions.

**Plastic Owls:** Birds learn quickly that an inanimate owl is not a threat. They may even use it as a perch regardless of how often it is moved around.

**Helikites and Wind Socks:** like the plastic owls, these products are intended to act as scarecrows but they do not help prevent collisions.

**Magnetic Fields:** Some products emit a magnetic field intended to disrupt a bird's geomagnetic orientation and encourage them to avoid an area. They do not prevent window strikes.

**Terror Eyes:** Balloons with large menacing-looking eyes on them are meant to scare unwanted resident birds away from an area not prevent window collisions. In fact, this technique can result in flushing birds toward the reflection of what can be seen as cover.

## What DOES Work in Preventing Bird-Window Collisions?

If you want to keep birds safe, make sure all your windows are visible to birds. Provide birds with cues or markers that alert them to the presence of glass. Windows can deceive birds: reflected trees or sky, a tempting potted plant, etc.

## Ways to Break Up Window Reflection

### PATTERNED WINDOW FILM

**WIND CURTAIN** – Paracord lines are hung from the top of a window spaced 4.25 inches apart to create a visual reference for birds. These cords move with the wind to alert the birds of the presence of glass.

**PERFORATED WINDOW FILM:** CollidEscape™ is a densely perforated window film. It looks opaque and dramatically reduces window reflections and transparency. From the inside, CollidEscape looks like a window screen. This preserves your view as well as the flow of natural light into your home.

**WINDOW SCREEN** – Bird Screen uses black fiberglass screening that hangs several inches in the front of a window and hooks at the top (easy to install). It is soft and flexible enough that no harm is done to birds that do fly into it. Bird Screen is weather resistant and doesn't detract from the window's appearance.

For more information please visit this link: <https://flap.org/archive/residential.php>