



GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



An approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing 17 November 2011

Bird-Safe Buildings

Design strategies at the beginning or for existing structures



Glass is probably the biggest "invisible killer" of birds in the U.S., and perhaps the world.

But a new publication, produced by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and built on the initial work of the NYC Audubon Society, is a real contribution to addressing the issue of birds, glass, light, and strategies for building and landscape design. It examines the bird-collision consequences deriving from the mirror effect of windows, glass transparency, the "passage effect" caused by dark glass, and the major impact of external and internal building lighting. Birds in spring and fall migration are particularly susceptible to the dangers of glass in buildings, especially since most songbirds migrate at night. This 58-page publication, *Bird-Friendly Building Design*, is available free via [download](#). Ironically, the push to make buildings "greener" has also increased bird mortality since it has promoted greater use of glass for energy conservation. But as the publication states, "green buildings don't have to kill birds." Constructing bird-safe buildings and eliminating the worst threats in existing structures can be achieved, and *Bird-Friendly Building Design* shows how.

The publication, a part of ABC's Collisions Program, also addresses bird movements as well as habitat and landscaping, which, under differing circumstances, can prevent or exacerbate the collision problem. What is now available is a comprehensive view of the issues, accessible to interested individuals, including professionals such as architects and contractors.

The primary method of distribution for this publication will be electronic, but ABC will be making hard-copies available. (ABC will print additional copies for \$4 per copy, plus shipping from the publisher. Contact [Christine Sheppard](#) at ABC if you are interested in this option or want more information on the program.)

Golf Courses and Bluebird Success

Some space for birds

July's issue of *The Auk*, the leading ornithological journal in North America, had a particularly interesting article, "Reproductive Success of Eastern Bluebirds on Suburban Golf Courses." You can find it [here](#).



The study, led by a team at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, concluded that Eastern Bluebirds will reproduce at golf courses "as well as those breeding in other disturbed habitats" (e.g., parks, cemeteries, agricultural land, and college campuses). Their six-year study examined over 650 nest boxes and 2,255 nest attempts at different study sites.

Nesting success was slightly higher at golf courses than at other somewhat similar sites. What the study did not do was examine landscaping and management techniques that might increase nesting success even further (although the use of pesticides was mentioned). Still, the conclusions are more than interesting.

Viewing the Birding Diversity Meeting

Watch the archived videos



An innovative meeting, "Focus on Diversity: Changing the Face of American Birding," took place at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, 22 October.

The intent was to discuss real ways to reach new and diverse audiences interested in nature-based recreation in general and birding in particular. The premise was that birding as a community and a pastime needed to make changes to reach diverse audiences, changes necessary if it wishes to be relevant to important issues facing us all.

You can view the archived video of the meeting [here](#), selecting the speakers or panels which may interest you most. You can also review a compilation of quotable moments [here](#).

Words to Consider:



"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 - 1959)

For Contact and More Information:

Besides using the material and the links provided in this issue of *GBP*, you can contact me on avitourism interests, site and trail/byway evaluations, and group presentations on the above subjects. I can be reached at the e-mail and/or P.O. Box below.