

The Glass Factor in Bird Mortality

The advances in glass technology and production have made it possible for architects and engineers to construct all-glass buildings. Unfortunately, such buildings tend to be a major hazard to birds. It's time our building architects and engineers incorporate bird-friendliness into their designs. According to a renowned bird conservationist from Portland, Oregon in the United States, by simply incorporating visual markers into the most predictable hazardous parts of a building, we can easily prevent the unwanted deaths of birds. Research overseas indicates that unmarked glass on buildings is a major contributor of bird mortality. Only through research and proper monitoring of such incidents can we put in place workable preventive measures to protect our birds from flying into glass. We depend on birds for critical ecological functions. They consume vast quantities of insects and play a vital role in regenerating habitats by pollinating plants and dispersing seeds. Before many more "glass buildings" sprout up in our urban and suburban areas, it is time the authorities consider coming out with guidelines similar to the Guideline for Bird Friendly Building Design developed by New York City Audubon Society for the attention and benefit of our architects, planners, designers and house owners.

(Sourced from The Star, 12 April 2013)