



Injured/Stunned Bird

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND AN INJURED BIRD AFTER COLLIDING WITH GLASS?

A bird found on the ground facing a building which does not fly away when you approach needs help. During the months of **April, May, September, and October** migratory birds are passing through our area to head to their breeding or wintering grounds. Glass poses as a problem for migratory birds as they can collide with the reflection of the outside world. Follow the below simple steps if you find an injured bird after striking glass. Only follow these guidelines if the bird does not have any visible injuries which include blood coming from eyes or bill or blood found anywhere on the bird. Blood is a sign that the bird needs to go to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. A common misconception is that birds break their wings after colliding with glass, because the bird will be found with the wings spread out. Yet, instead a stunned bird uses its wings for balance. So, do not use this as a visible injury.

- Approach the bird from behind
- Gently pick up the bird or place a towel over the bird to scoop it up
- Place the bird in an unwaxed paper bag (lunch bags are great) with the bottom of the bag lined with a folded paper towel or paper napkin.
- Clip the paper bag closed with a binder clip or clothespin. The paper bag is a breathable material and does not need holes punched in it.
- Place the bag in a safe location, not directly in the sun for a 2-hour minimum. Even if the bird is bouncing around in the bag, keep the bird in the bag for 2 hours: a bird with visual impairment from the head trauma often moves around in the bag.
- Do not check on the bird within those 2 hours. Birds can die easily from stress and we appear as predators to them.
- After the 2 hours, open the bag in a safe location for the bird to fly out. If the bird flies out, then it has recovered from striking the glass. If the bird does not fly out or ONLY takes a short flight and goes back down to the ground, then the bird needs to be taken within 24 hours to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. If the bird is dead, you can discard the bird (please report it to Lights Out Baltimore). Remember, if a bird cannot survive a 2-hour period in a bag, then the bird would not have survived at wildlife rehabilitation either.
- Licensed rehabilitators can be found:  
[http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants\\_wildlife/rehabilitators.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/rehabilitators.aspx)
- Please report all collisions deceased or alive to [lightsoutbaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:lightsoutbaltimore@gmail.com). Data can be collected within the state of Maryland.



Bird upon release



Volunteers with injured birds in bags