

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

The poem SONG/BIRDS by Jane Yolen is part of her collection of poetry in “Bird Watch” which was illustrated by Ted Lewin. This poem reminds me of our feeder area.

Along the wires, - like scattered notes – on lines of music – sit a row of birds. Starlings are the half notes, - finches the quarters - and hummingbirds, - as brief as grace notes, - hover on the edges – of the tune.”

Last week this article focused on birds and the threat of windows. The following is about two aspects of helping migrating birds. What we can do if we are building or remodeling a home and what we can do in our current home or business.

Let’s take a look at how we can prevent the death of birds as they migrate:

The following information was suggested by the American Bird Conservancy from their Bird Collision Program headed by Cheryl Sheppard.

If you’re building a new home or remodeling, the following ideas can also be good alternatives:

- Install external shutters and keep them closed when you’re not in the room or taking advantage of the light or view. (These can be huge energy savers, too!)
- Install external sun shades or awnings on windows, to block the reflection of sunlight. Remote controlled shades are available.
- On new construction or when putting in new windows, consider windows that have the screen on the entire outside of the glass.
- Add interior vertical blinds and keep the slats only half open.
- Avoid visual paths to sky and greenery. Bright windows on the opposite wall from your picture window may give the illusion of an open path to the other side. Closing a window shade or a door between rooms can sometimes solve this situation.

How To Help A Window Collision Victim

If you find a bird dazed from a window collision, examine it for external injuries. If the wings are both held properly, neither dangling, and the eyes seem normal, see if it can perch in a branch unassisted. If so, leave it to recover on its own.

If the bird has a noticeable injury, get it to a wildlife rehabilitator as quickly as possible. Broken bones usually need proper attention within minutes or hours to heal properly without surgery. Use this [online directory](#) to find a rehabber near you. We refer wildlife related issues to Wild Instincts in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, place it in a dark container such as a shoebox, and leave it somewhere quiet, out of reach of pets and other predators, for 15 minutes. If the weather is extremely cold, you may need to take it inside, but don’t keep the bird too warm. Do not try to give it food and water, and resist handling it. The darkness will calm the bird while it revives, which should occur within a few minutes unless it is seriously

injured. Do not open the box indoors to check on it or it might escape into your house and be hard to get back out!

Take the box outside every 15 minutes or so and open it—if the bird flies off, that's that! If it doesn't recover in a couple of hours, take it to a wildlife rehabilitator. Remember that, technically, it is illegal to handle a migratory bird without a permit, and medically helping an injured bird requires training, so your job is just to transport the bird to a rehabilitator.

Dates to Save: May 28 – Start Summer with a Sizzle – Dining for Cats and Dogs – Lynn's Custom Meats and Catering 10:30 to 3 p.m. sponsored by Armstrong Insurance and OCSA.

June 3 – Purple Cat Van - Free Spay and Neuter clinic for cats – owned or feral. Contact Lisa Lew to schedule an appointment – 715-634-5394 Sponsored by OCSA and Angela Madelon.

September 12 – NHS Dog Walk. – Noon to two –at the NHS Shelter