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A Survey of Bird-Window Collisions on the Illinois Wesleyan University Campus

Alexander Mueller

Illinois Wesleyan University

Roberta Steinert

Illinois Wesleyan University

Given Harper, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Poster Presentation P28

A SURVEY OF BIRD-WINDOW COLLISIONS ON THE ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Alexander Mueller, Roberta Steinert and Given Harper*
Environmental Studies Program, Illinois Wesleyan University

Collisions with building windows are a major anthropogenic source of bird mortality, with estimates of 100 million to 1 billion birds killed annually in the United States (Loss et al. 2014). However, this phenomenon has not been investigated on the IWU campus, which was the purpose of our study. We conducted daily bird carcass searches from 11 September to 30 October 2015 at The Ames Library, State Farm Hall, a portion of Presser Hall, and The Minor Meyers Welcome Center. We collected 25 individuals of 12 species; Swainson's Thrushes (*Catharus ustulatus*; N = 7), Gray-cheeked Thrushes (*Catharus minimus*; N = 3), and Magnolia Warblers (*Setophaga magnolia*; N = 3) were the most frequently collected species. There were more bird-window collisions at larger buildings but we found no significant difference in the number of collisions from buildings built to LEED specifications (i.e., with larger window areas) compared to non-LEED buildings. Additional studies should be conducted in both the spring and fall migration seasons to gain a better understanding of bird-window collisions on the IWU campus, and to determine ways to reduce them.