

How Vegetation around USU Main Campus Impacts Bird-Window Collisions

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Problems

- Bird-window collisions are the number one killer of birds in North America
- Utah State has a major problem with bird and window strikes, especially caused by reflective, mirrored-style windows and certain types of fruiting plants near buildings that tend to aggravate this phenomenon
- More than 100 birds collided with the University Inn this past year
- Cost of upgrading buildings is high, and putting screens, wraps, or tape on all windows is not financially feasible



Research

- I looked into bird-friendly plants to create a list of what to avoid planting around problem buildings
- I looked into the distance bird-friendly plants should be placed from buildings to avoid luring birds to their deaths
- I talked to Dr. Kuhns, a Forestry Specialist, about plants to avoid, and what types of plants should be utilized to limit window strikes



Recommendations

- Plant non-native plants and trees around windows with frequent bird strikes
- To prevent bird strikes, plant non-fruiting trees and plants around windows
- Place trees, plants and bird-feeders as close to windows as possible in order to slow down flight-speeds of at-risk birds
- Place trees and plants either very close to windows (i.e. less than 5 ft) or very far away (more than 30 ft) in order to prevent collisions

