



Art for the Birds!

Most birds spend a lot of time flying, looking for seeds and insects to eat, water to drink, and generally taking care of other bird business. While they fly, they face an invisible danger: our windows! Using tempera paint, you can create a beautiful mural on the outside of your window to protect the flying birds in your neighborhood.

Why do birds fly into windows?

Birds are usually small, and can fly very fast. When they fly into a glass window or door, they often cannot recover. Clear glass windows and doors can act like a mirror, and reflect images of the sky and trees. To a bird on the go, a window reflection can unfortunately look like a great place to fly. The other side of the glass can also look like good habitat to the bird (a place where the bird can find food, water, or shelter). Both reasons cause our feathered friends to fly into windows.



Materials

Tempera paint (non-toxic, long-lasting, and washes off with water)

Plate

Brush or sponge

Rags

Bowl of water

Directions

1. **Go outside** (with adult permission) and pretend to be a bird. Look at all of your windows. Which one do you think might look invisible to a bird?
2. **Choose** a window. It can be big, or very small. Make sure the window is:
 - a. Reflective
 - b. Near active birds
 - c. Easy and safe to get to and paint on
3. **Get permission** from an adult to paint on the window you have chosen.
4. **Put** your different tempera paint colors on different parts of your paper plate.
5. **Dip** your paintbrush or sponge into the paint .
6. **Paint** a picture of your own design! As long as you paint the *outside* of the window, birds will see it and choose a safer place to fly.
7. **Wipe** away any paint drips with the rag and bowl of water.
8. **Pat** yourself on the back! Millions of birds fly into windows each year, and most of these windows are on houses. Your mural has just saved many future birds!
9. **Optional:** With an adult's help, download the [Seek](#) or [Merlin bird ID](#) app to help you identify your backyard birds.

