

Originating Committee: Environment and Ecology

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Intended Recipients: University of Missouri System, Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri Valley College, Missouri Western State University, Truman State University

Urge Implementation of Bird-Safe Windows on Missouri College Campuses

WHEREAS, the definitive study, *Decline of the North American avifauna*, published in 2019, alerted the public to a 29% decline in North American avifauna abundance from 1970 estimates; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is home to about 335 avian species over a given year; and

WHEREAS, according to a widely cited meta-analysis, an estimated 624 million bird deaths occur annually in North America as a result of window collisions, the second largest direct cause of mortality to birds; and

WHEREAS, birds are critical building blocks of ecosystem health and provide essential ecological services that protect human and wildlife health, including insect control, seed dispersal, pollination, and disease removal through scavenging; and

WHEREAS, college campuses are major centers for architecture including many glass-windowed buildings; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of colleges and universities promote sustainability within their range of values and include sustainability mission statements; and

WHEREAS, colleges offer major and minor programs and certificates for conservation biology and sustainability and employ professors who are authorities on these subjects; and

WHEREAS, colleges can receive recognition, comparative rankings, and evaluation on their efforts towards sustainability through the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System; and

WHEREAS, wildlife conservation contributes to sustainability through improved human and wildlife interactions; and

WHEREAS, effective and increasingly affordable technologies are available to mitigate these issues through bird strike prevention; and

WHEREAS, new windows can be installed with line or dot designs or ultra-violet screens to mitigate bird strikes; and

WHEREAS, existing windows can be easily and affordably modified with bird-safe technology additions including stickers and paint; and

WHEREAS, bird-safe window design policies may only be focused on problematic windows that lead to a disproportionate number of birds strikes; and

WHEREAS, bird-safe window designs can be implemented using the American Bird Conservancy Bird-Friendly Building Design guide; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, Missouri, this 25th day of February, 2023, urges college and university campuses to implement a bird-safe window design policy in order to fulfill their sustainability statements and protect declining avian populations.

Searchable Keywords: birds, bird-safe, windows, bird-friendly, collisions, sustainability, colleges, universities, campus

Expires: February 25, 2028