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UofA research aims to reduce number of bird-window collisions

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Every year, an estimated 42 million birds are killed in Canada due to collisions with windows, and a recent study of the University of Alberta was aimed at trying to cut down that number.

Research lead Justine Kummer says they focused on urban residences.

"Research has been done which shows that, in Canada, 90 percent of all collisions, bird-window collisions, are occurring at houses," Kummer explains. "Largely because there's just so many more houses on the landscape, than the tall buildings we would see downtown."

Kummer says they assumed bird-feeders were the big culprit - but though they do increase the risk of bird-window collisions, they aren't the cause. Vegetation, even the shape of the architecture, can all contribute.

She adds spring and summer are the worst seasons for collisions.

"But that's largely just because there are so many more birds in the area," she says. "There are very few collisions in the winter, when there's just far fewer birds." (scb, kb)