Critter Creek Chronicle

Animals for Education

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CRITTER CREEK WILDLIFE STATION
SPRING OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
11:00 AM until 2:00 PM

Enjoy the wildflower display on your way to Critter Creek. All of Critter Creek's rehabilitation enclosures are empty now. This allows us to repair and thoroughly clean them. Visitors to our Spring Open House will have a rare opportunity to go inside the enormous flight enclosures for a true bird's eye view of what the larger birds of prey experience. You will be able to tour the infirmary where injured and orphaned wildlife are first brought to Critter Creek. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely offering more opportunities to take pictures. Our mountain lion, coyotes, foxes, bobcat, raccoon, and lynx are all enjoying the warmer temperatures of spring. Our educational birds are also enjoying the excitement of spring and are still on display.. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Visit our gift shop. A picnic area is available so bring a lunch.

Call (559) 338-2415 for information or
look online at www.crittercreek.org for a map.

- Gate will close at 1:30 pm to allow you enough time to tour.
- Entrance is by donation and tour takes 1 ½ hours.
- Our field parking is free.

Reducing Bird Collisions with Glass

Every year, nearly one billion birds collide with glass in the U.S. Fortunately, low-cost, attractive solutions are available to owners and managers.

Birds do not see clear or reflective glass. Glass creates a lethal illusion of clear airspace. The majority of collisions occur during the day when birds can see reflections of the landscape in the glass (e.g. clouds, sky, vegetation, or the ground); or birds see through glass to real or perceived habitats (e.g. potted plants or vegetation inside). During inclement weather, migrating birds can be attracted to lighted buildings, resulting in collisions, entrapment, exhaustion, resulting in concentrated avian mortality events at night.

Daytime collisions are reduced by using glass treatments that allow birds to see glass as a barrier. Glass treatments should be applied up to the height of the adjacent vegetation. However, applying treatments to just first story windows or known problem glass can make an important difference.

A variety of glass and window treatments options are available to create visual barriers for birds thereby reducing mortality from collisions. Vertical stripes that are at least ¼ inch wide with a maximum spacing of 2 inches, have been effective at preventing glass strikes of most birds. Because hummingbirds are so much smaller than other birds, closer spacing of the elements of any pattern (striped or otherwise) will be necessary. Additionally, when using patterns other than stripes, closer spacing of elements is recommended because a series of smaller images like dots will not break up the glass as much as stripes using the 2”X 1/4” spacing rules. Use colors that contrast well against the background or reflections (e.g. white stripes may be more effective than black stripes if there is a consistent reflection of dark color on the glass surface). Applying a product to the outer surface of the glass is most reflective.



Tempera paint is a washable, long-lasting, and non-toxic solution to preventing bird/window collisions. Photo by Christine Sheppard

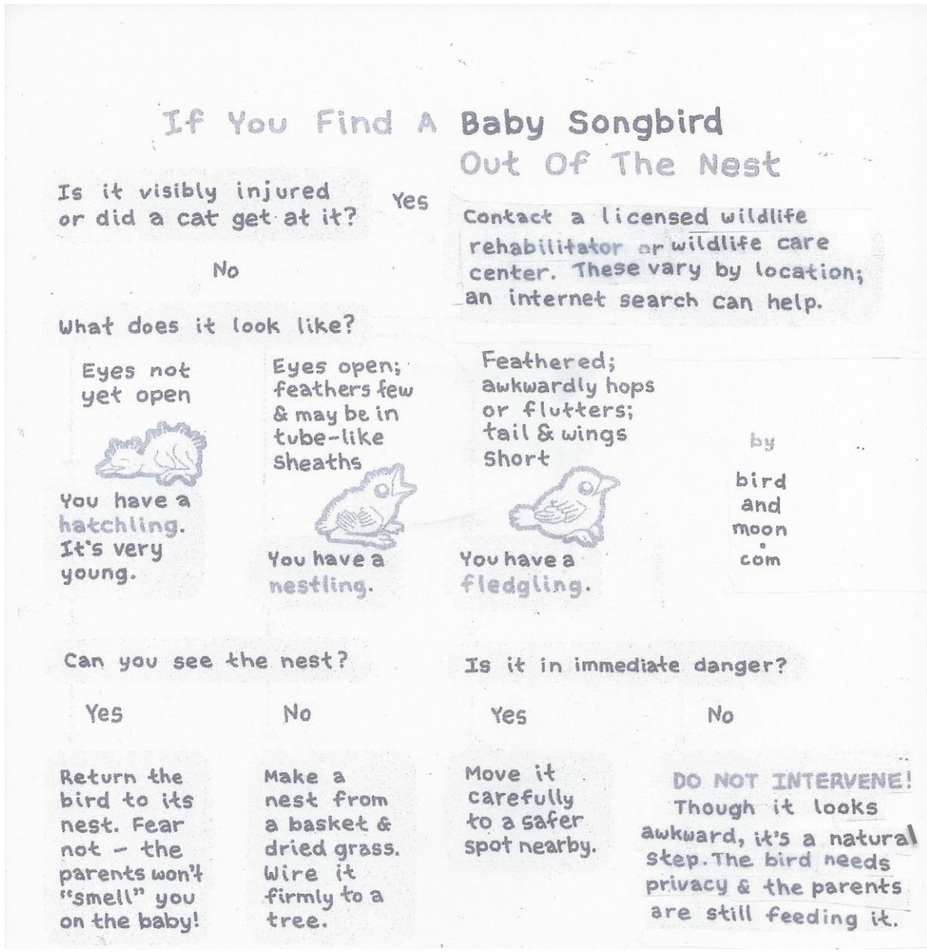


You can make a Zen wind curtain with cord, or anything that will hang in front of the glass at 4" intervals. Photo by Lisa Welch

Many consider the Acopian bird or Zen bird curtain to be an elegant and simple method of reducing bird collisions with glass. This method uses 1/8-inch paracord sections spaced 3.5 to 4.25 inches apart, hanging the height of the window and attached to a horizontal section of paracord running along the top frame of the window. The paracord creates a visual barrier for birds. Acopian curtains can be purchased pre-made, or constructed of readily available and inexpensive materials. The cost is about 11 cents per sq. ft. for materials.

Using the spacing guidelines previously described, non-toxic tempura paint patterns or artwork applied to exterior glass can reduce bird collisions for extended time periods. When needed, tempura paint is easily removed using vinegar and water. The cost is about 13 cents per sq. ft for materials.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services



Come to our Open House April 26th Sat. from 11:00- 2:00

Don’t miss this opportunity to see our rehabilitation cages from an inside perspective.

