

What's with the dots?

By Alexandra Kocher



The Arboretum Centre with new window decals

Photo by Chris Earley

We here at The Arboretum were given an amazing opportunity to spice up our Arboretum Centre, so of course we had to take it! To add a splash of life to our main windows, we covered them in polka dots! The new addition isn't for aesthetics however; it is literally giving a splash of life because these dots actually save lives and help protect our wildlife!

On any building, windows cause a threat to all sorts of bird species because birds usually only focus on the reflection of trees and sky, making it seem like the window is just an empty hole that they can fly through. When birds hit windows they may die upon impact, or leave with life threatening injuries and die within a few days. In North America, hundreds of millions of birds die each year due to window collisions, so we thought we could help reduce our own footprint.

The Arboretum has had some window strike deaths in the past, so we have put on these dots to help the birds realize that there is something there that they cannot fly through. These 'stickers' can be bought by anyone, meaning you can do this to your own windows at home and save some lives!

We would not have been able to do this without help, so we would like to thank the individual donors and the following groups for their dedication and donations to this project. Our birds thank you as well!



The Gosling Foundation



If you are interested in learning more about window applications please go to www.featherfriendly.com.



A Hermit Thrush sits dazed and confused after hitting an untreated Arboretum Centre window
Photo by Chris Earley



A Belted Kingfisher lies dead after hitting an untreated Arboretum Centre window
Photo by Chris Earley



Take a look at how reflective windows can be! Birds just see the sky and trees because they have no understanding of what glass is and how reflections work. Adding dots will help them understand that it is a solid object
Photo by Chris Earley



A view of the dots from inside the building –they are not as visible for us as you would think!
Photo by Chris Earley