

# STOP THE DEATH OF BIRDS CRASHING INTO PANES!

At least 250000 birds die each day from crashing into window panes or similar obstacles – often unnoticed by us human beings. A lot of them aren't dead at once but die from internal injuries later on. Then cats or other animals of prey eat the victims. What is more, during the hatching season the brood of these injured birds will starve to death as well. At least 70 bird species are affected, from barn owl and kingfisher to sparrow hawk and yellowhammer.

Unfortunately, the well-known black labels (silhouettes of birds of prey) are nearly useless. Birds do not recognize non-moving silhouettes as a source of danger but only as an obstacle. They make way for these obstacles and thus crash into the pane of glass next to them. If pinned up from inside, the silhouette will even not be recognizable as an obstacle if the window reflects.

In 1996 already, I suggested a completely new approach to solving this problem, and from 1999 onwards I have explained it in detail together with Martin Regner (see "Vogel und Umwelt", vol. 13, publications in part 1, p. 31 - 41, Aug. 2002). We suggested to mark panes with patterns that warn birds but are invisible to human beings. Since very many birds are able to see ultraviolet light – which we cannot – we should succeed by using patterns that are only visible in ultraviolet-light.

For further information, you may look up the website [www.spinnennetz-effekt.de](http://www.spinnennetz-effekt.de) (the spider's web effect).

**Today, products are available which enables us to use the spider's web effect at home and elsewhere in order to prevent birds from crashing into panes: birdpen and birdsticker**

The birdpen is a felt-tip. After cleaning your windows, you can use the birdpen to mark your windowpanes with uv-active patterns almost invisible to the human eye. Those markings have a durability of about half a year.

The birdsticker is durable for up to 10 years. It is a kind of sticker, which is colorless and transparent for human eyes but visible for birds because of an uv-color in it. The birdsticker is weatherproof and endures cleaning of the windows.

According to the manufacturer, the birdpen and the birdsticker are able to prevent nearly 70 % of the fatal incidents (see [www.birdpen.de](http://www.birdpen.de)).

An even more simple method of preventing the death of birds crashing into window panes is: Just don't clean your windows anymore. Dust absorbs ultraviolet light, while it is reflected by clean parts of the panes. A contrasting pattern evolves and birds will be warned and veer off in time.

**Dr. Friedrich Buer and Dipl.-Sozialw. Univ. Martin Regner**

Georg-Vogel-Str. 6, 91413 Neustadt/Aisch, Germany, phone: 0049-9161/7556  
e-mail: [dr.friedrich.buer@gmx.de](mailto:dr.friedrich.buer@gmx.de)

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