

DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY®

CONSERVATION AT EVERY LEVEL:

Addressing bird collisions at the
Detroit Zoo

Bonnie Van Dam
Associate Curator of Birds



DETROIT ZOO ♦ BELLE ISLE NATURE CENTER

DZS AVIAN CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

- **The Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) facilitates and contributes to several bird conservation programs, locally and internationally.**



DZS AVIAN CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

- **DZS also believes it's our responsibility to take care of birds that are migrating and/or are native residents, not just those that are Zoo residents.**





Local and migrating bird residents, whether they are of conservation concern or not should be protected from glass collisions. Scientists estimate that billions of North American birds every year meet their untimely deaths when they collide with glass (Klem, 1990; Machtans et al., 2013; Loss et al., 2014).



Photo: Rick Haines

The Detroit Zoo opened in 1928 and has always been known for its moated habitats.



GLASS

- Like most zoos, DZS also uses glass to provide an up-close and personal view of the wildlife.



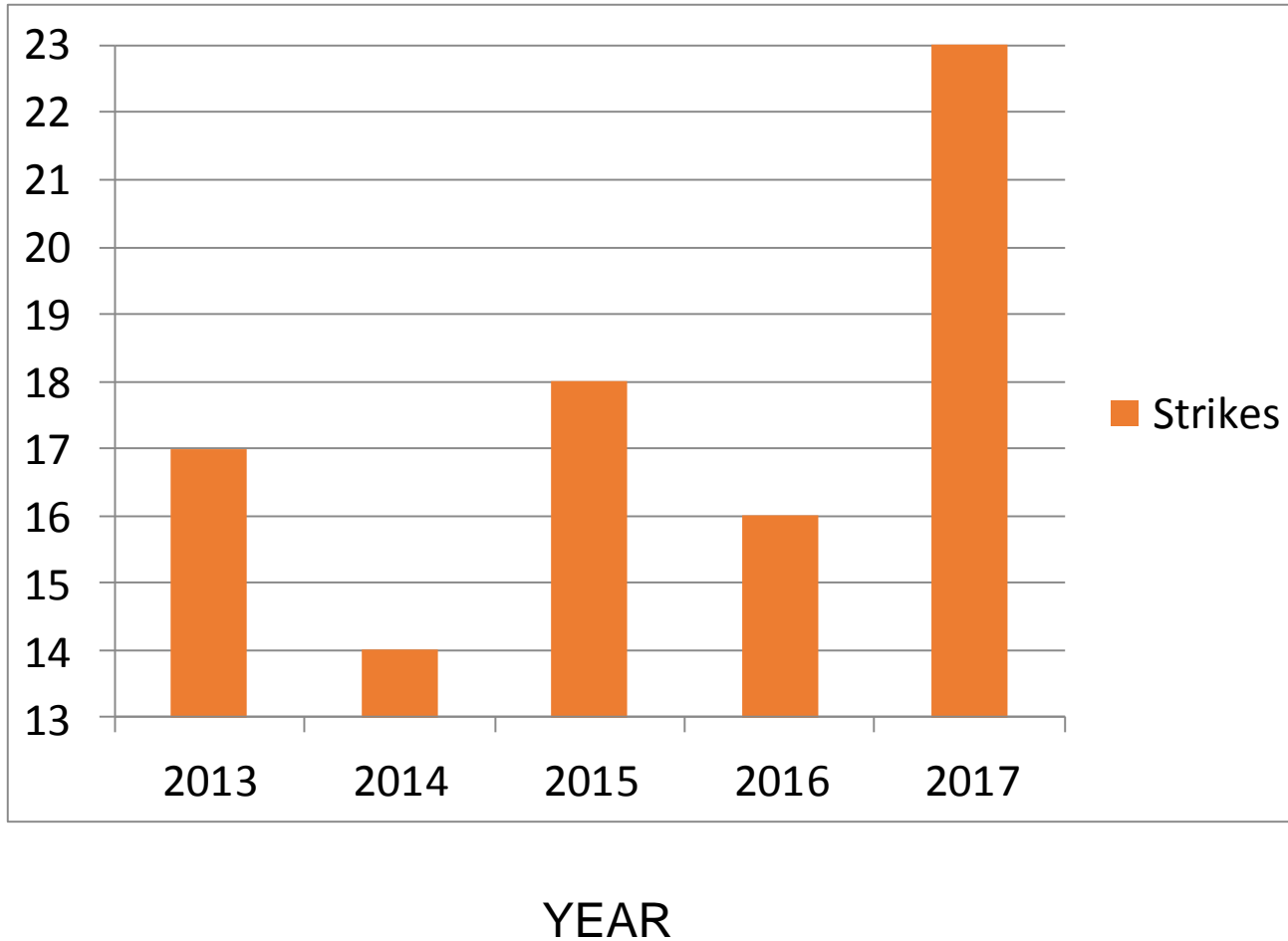
2013

- DZS started a tracking/reporting system for bird collisions on property.
- Originally a staff e-mail was used to reach out to employees urging them to contact bird staff and report collisions/deaths.

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
2											
3	Date	Reported by	Number of Collisions	Approx. Time	Weather Conditions	Bird Species or Unknown	Male, Female, Juvenile or Unknown	Migration Season (Yes or No)	Features that may contribute to strikes	Any corrective actions that were taken	Additional Note
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REPORTING



TO DATE

- We have five graphic displays in various areas of the Zoo.
- We have a bird safety pamphlet available to the public in several areas of the Zoo.
- We sell ABC BirdTape in gift shop.
- We have used Ornilux UV glass and fritted glass in two different buildings.
- We have used CollidEscape window film to cover windows on three different buildings.
- We have used FeatherFriendly 3M collision dots in various areas.
- We train all employees/volunteers to recognize and report collisions.
- During special events, we teach the public about collisions and allow them to make decals to take home.



ADDITIONALLY

- An article in our Harambee Headlines newsletter.
- Educational website blog and press release.
- Chris Sheppard (American Bird Conservancy) provided an on-site consultation in 2015.



DECALS

Typical first line of defense – decals, decals, decals.

- Decals are one of the quickest, easiest methods but must be replaced often.
- They aren't the most effective if they aren't applied using the 4" by 2" rule.
- Some folks believe they shouldn't be used at all.



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DECALS CONTINUED

- But.....they are conversation starters, the public asks “what and why”.
- Can be made by staff, children, volunteers and the public (Earth Day).



2015-2016

The Zoo used decals and ABC BirdTape.



FORD EDUCATION CENTER

- The Ford Education Center was built in 2005.
- It is a two-story building with a beautiful courtyard and over 250 windows.

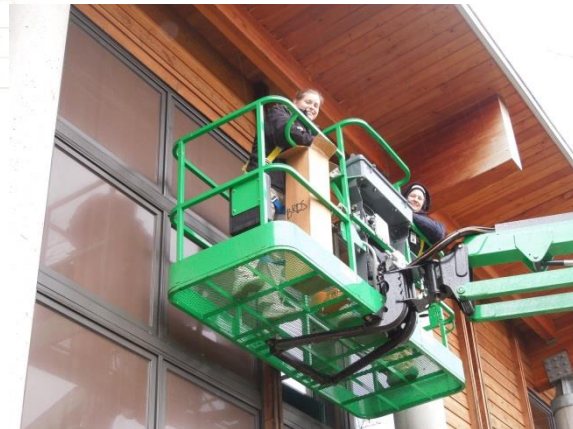


2015-2017

A budget was put together to purchase CollidEscape for various areas in the Zoo.



- Using an in-house utility crew we installed film on 95% of the Ford Education Center in 2016 and finished in 2017.
- No reported collisions since completion.



HOLDEN REPTILE CONSERVATION CENTER - 2017



2017 ORGANIZATIONAL RENEWAL DAYS

DZS employee development days allowed staff to participate in bird collision prevention.

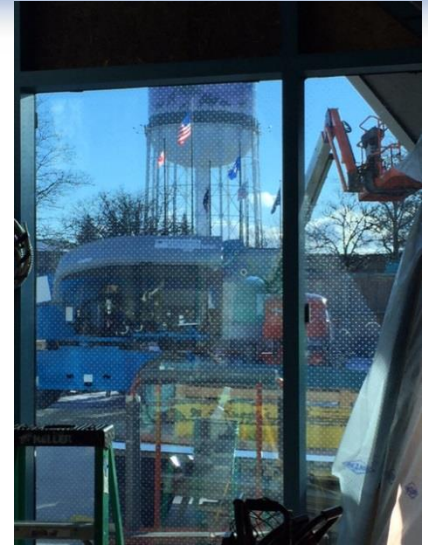


DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY ALL EMPLOYEE
O.R. DAY
ORGANIZATIONAL RENEWAL

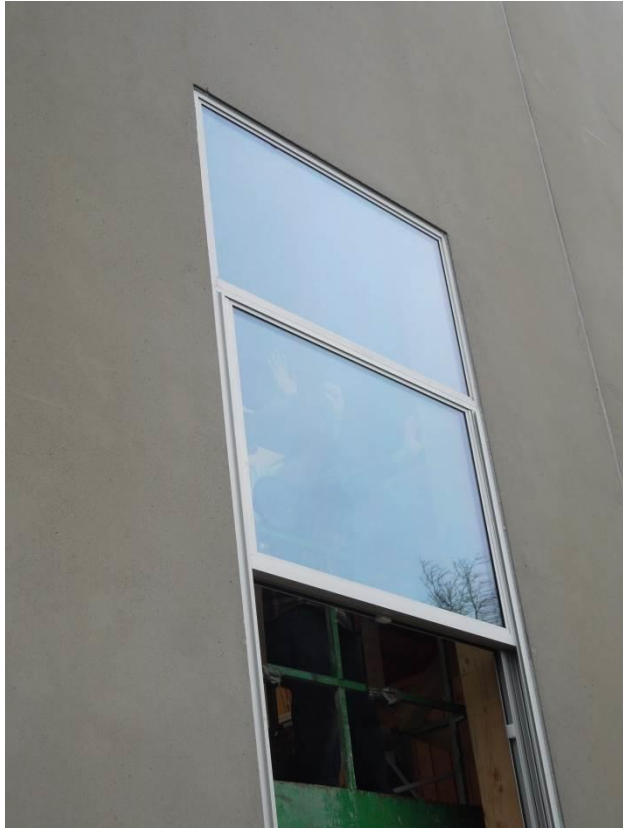


BIRD FRIENDLY GLASS

- Polk Penguin Conservation Center opened in 2016.
- First building at the Detroit Zoo to have bird friendly glass.

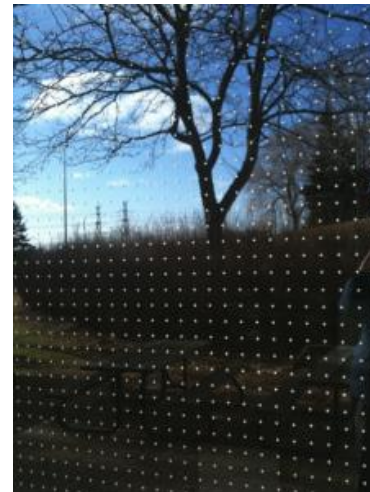


GIRAFFE HABITAT EXPANSION - 2017



WOLF HABITAT - 2017

FeatherFriendly bird dots applied to five large viewing windows.



BELLE ISLE NATURE CENTER – 2017



IN PROGRESS

- **DZS is a partner in the recently formed Metro Detroit Urban Bird Treaty (UBT).**
 - **We will be promoting bird-friendly buildings and planting a Backyards for Wildlife on Zoo grounds (bird collisions will be addressed).**
- **Working with the Detroit Audubon Society on bird collision monitoring efforts and promoting “Project Safe Passage Great Lakes” mid-March through May and mid-August through October.**



The Detroit Zoo cares about all birds.
Please help us gather information that will be used to prevent bird-glass collisions on property.

I just witnessed a bird collide with glass.
WHAT DO I DO?

ALIVE


DEAD

I'm alive but I am injured.

Stunned and then flies away.

Contact Bird Dept.
Radio Birds 12, 11, 22 or 21.
Stay with the bird until they arrive.

Contact Bird Dept.
Radio Birds 12, 11, 22 or 21.
Stay with the bird until they arrive.

Contact Bird Dept.
Radio Birds 12, 11, 22, or 21.
You will be requested to provide details.

QUESTIONS??



Thanks!!