

BIRDS PECKING AND ATTACKING WINDOWS

From time to time, we may observe bluebirds or other bird species at our windows pecking incessantly or aggressively attacking the windows. What is happening is the windows can have a "mirror effect" to a bird, as they will see their own reflection, appearing as a competing bird of their own species in their breeding territory. We see this in Spring more than other times of the year, but it can happen any time of year. Males do this more, but females have been observed doing this also. If bird feeding stations are near windows, there is a much greater chance the birds will be attracted to their own reflections. One thing you can do is move your feeding stations farther away from the house near some cover of trees or shrubs and watch the birds at the feeders using binoculars. There are temporary and quick solutions to stop the birds attacking and pecking at the windows using materials you may have on hand on-the-ready at home or can easily be purchased inexpensively at your local grocery store to temporarily address the problem:

1. Try a product called Press 'N Seal. This is a multipurpose plastic wrap found with other kitchen food wraps, such as foils and storage bags. Two or three sheets can be applied quickly on the outside of the window to remove the reflection. It automatically adheres to the windows. Once applied, just press the wrap firmly with your hands. You can leave it on until you think the birds have given up and then you can easily peel it off later. It will allow filtered light into your room. Photo examples are below.
2. Newspapers can be used with duct tape to adhere to the frame of your windows or on the glass until the birds give up. Newspapers do get wet in rains and can be blown off more easily.

If this happens on the sideview mirror of your car, you can tie a plastic grocery bag or tape a paper bag over the mirror or use the Press 'N Seal around the mirror. This can be removed when you use your car and replaced again later if the birds persist interest in the car's mirror.

Again, these are temporary fast-fix suggestions until permanent solution products can be considered and ordered and used at your home. Windows can also reflect the sky and trees. This can, unfortunately, cause birds to fly full speed into windows causing injury or death. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has a page on window reflection issues and collisions with recommended products. Their website on this topic can be found here: <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>

