

Bird-building collision surveys on the University of Saskatchewan campus

Spring/Fall 2026 Projects: The Grieves Lab is seeking motivated undergraduate students to conduct bird-building collision monitoring surveys on campus. If interested, email Dr. Grieves at leanne.grieves@usask.ca and include a brief description of why you're interested in this research topic, along with a resume or CV and copy of your unofficial transcript. Click [here](#) for more information about the Grieves lab.

Bird-building collisions are one of the leading causes of avian mortality in Canada. As such, there is a growing effort to document collisions to determine areas of high collision risk for birds and, ideally, to use these data to develop mitigation strategies, such as retrofitting high-risk glass with bird-friendly treatments. Students completing this project will survey buildings on The University of Saskatchewan campus during spring and fall migration, building on previous bird collision risk assessments and contributing to ongoing efforts to make Saskatoon a more bird-friendly city by advocating for policies that mitigate bird collisions. Surveys will follow a standardized protocol and data submission system. Surveys involve walking building perimeters and looking for signs of bird collisions, such as carcasses, feathers, or bird parts, smears on windows, and injured birds. When a collision is detected, a data sheet will be completed, and GPS-tagged photos of the carcass, collision signs, and building façade where the collision occurred will be recorded and uploaded to an online portal. Students will learn skills in developing and testing a research question, following a standardized research protocol, conducting data collection, entry, and management, statistical analysis and data interpretation, summarizing and communicating research results, and bird species identification.

Spring surveys will be conducted daily from May-June. Fall surveys will be conducted daily from September-October.

Students conducting this research at the **BIOL380** level will complete a literature review, develop and test a research question, complete a research notebook and research summary, and present their research.

Students conducting this research at the **BIOL480** level will complete the same tasks as for BIOL380 *and* produce a final research report in the style of a scientific manuscript.



Image: Anthony Ly, 2025