

Project Location: Austin Peay – Hesler Breezeway

Submitted By: Elizabeth Derryberry, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Proposal: Millions of birds die from collisions with windows every year, including windows at the University of Tennessee. A recent Tennessee Today article highlighted UT Facilities interest in reducing the environmental impact of the new Student Union. The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program includes credit for reducing glass collisions.

Directly across Phillip Fulmer way from the Student Union is the breezeway between the Austin-Peay and Hesler buildings. The attached photos show that this breezeway is enclosed in glass, and to a bird, it appears one could fly right through it.

Numerous birds try to do just that, which results in dead and injured birds such as the three Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) shown in Figure 3 that were found below the breezeway. This is a tragedy and reflects badly on the University.

These bird deaths, 10s to 100s each year at this breezeway alone, are a tragedy, yet there are numerous options that could be implemented to reduce the environmental impact of the current design. This is an opportunity for UT to demonstrate commitment to reduced environmental impact and educate the many architecture, wildlife, and ecology students on campus about this issue and ways to solve it. This would further enhance campus life by drawing our community's attention to the wildlife that live on campus and heighten awareness of the need to protect these species.

Solutions are varied both in design and cost, from installation of bird-safe glass to application of bird-deterrent films to adding visual patterns with paint, markers, or even strings. Any patterns or films must be put on the outside of the windows to be effective because at certain times of day the glass can act as a mirror, making items placed inside the glass invisible and ineffective. The costs of modifying this breezeway to be more environmentally-friendly range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars.

Below are several websites with additional background information on the window kill issue as well as suggested solutions:

[American Bird Conservancy](#)

[Science News article on magnitude of window bird kill issue](#)

[National Geographic article on bird-safe glass](#)

[Bird safety film](#)

[Exterior window "curtain" made of paracord](#)



Project Location: Bridge connecting Austin Peay & Hesler Biology

Submitted By: Chris Boake, Associate Dean & Professor, College of Arts & Sciences

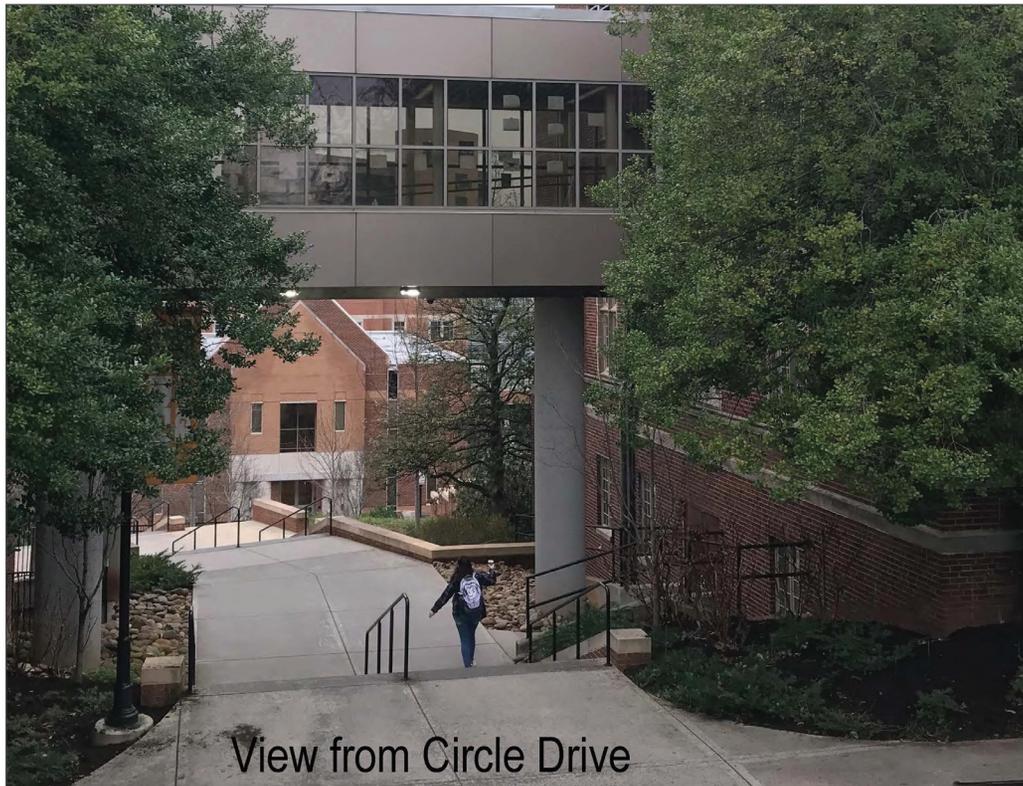


Ad hoc signs are being used to prevent birds flying into the glazing.

Proposal: The bridge connecting Austin Peay and Hesler Biology is highly visible from both Circle Drive/The Hill and the Pedestrian Mall/Student Union Bridge.

Historically, the bridge has had issues with birds fly into the glass (sadly, often dying and landing on the landscape and walkway below). The users have hung ad hoc signs, but they are not very pleasing from the interior or exterior. Of course after the “bird” signs were up, others took advantage of the windows to hang their own signs.

We propose a graphic on the windows to deter the birds and limit (eventually stop) other signs being taped to the windows.



View from Circle Drive



Ad hoc signs are being used to prevent birds flying into the glazing.