Bird Friendly Cornell

Bird-Safe Student Art Contest

Life Lines

Transforming windows, saving birds

Supported By:

CornellLab of Ornithology

CornellCALS
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

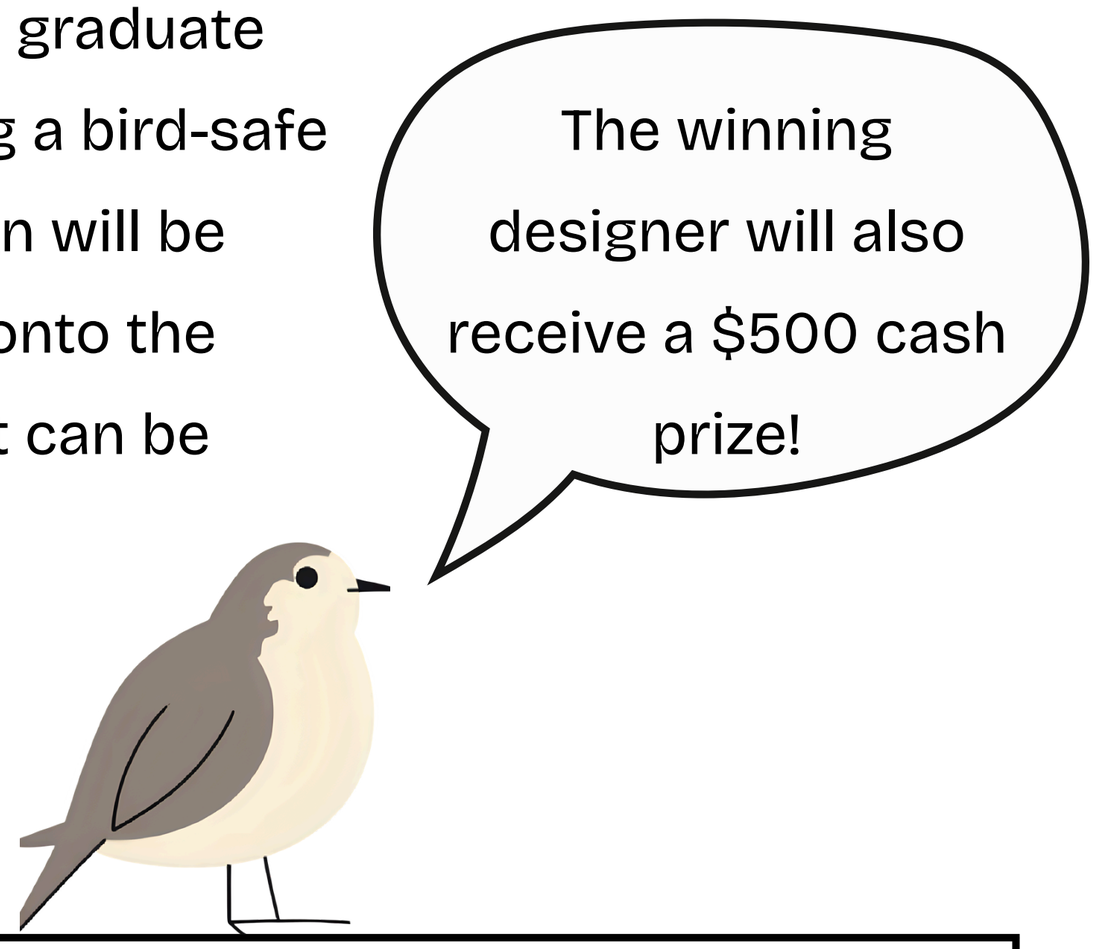
Table of Contents

Palm Warbler photo by: Ryan Sanderson

Part 1: Competition Overview, Timeline, and Guidelines

Overview

The goal of this competition is to protect birds and increase awareness of bird-window collisions in the Cornell community. Cornell undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate by designing a bird-safe pattern (instructions below). The winning design will be printed on custom adhesive film and installed onto the front of Stocking Hall in summer 2026, where it can be expected to last up to 15 years!



Timeline

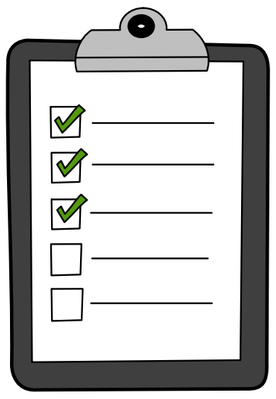
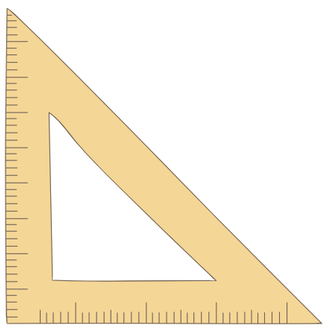
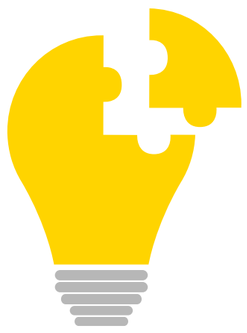
Date	Milestone
January 22, 2026	Competition launches
January 22–March 30, 2026	Submissions will be accepted
March 30, 2026	**Submissions are due**
May 5, 2026	Winner is announced
Summer 2026	Winning design is installed

Guidelines

Who Can Submit

- Cornell undergraduate and graduate students from any department
- Individual students, groups/teams of students, or student organizations at Cornell

Judging Criteria

	Does the design meet the required guidelines?
	Does the design align with the aesthetic and purpose of Stocking Hall?
	Does the inspiration statement have a relevant and compelling narrative?

Guidelines

Required Guidelines

- Designs must not have empty space of more than 2 inches in any direction.
- Designs must be in solid white only (no gradients).
- Design submissions must be original work.
- Designs must scale well to the target building.
- A high resolution vector EPS Art file with your design will be required if it is selected.
- Designs must be submitted as a PDF.
- Submissions must be computer generated.
- Lines should be at least ⅛ inch thick and dots ¼ inch in diameter.

Additional Notes

- The design will be printed on bird-friendly film and affixed to the external surface of 15 window panes. The design may use a repeated pattern or original art.
- The design should take into consideration the view from both the interior and exterior sides of the glass.
- Note that the window panes are 96" x 39" and the design will cover 15 panes.

Scan the QR code to be taken to submission form!

Submission Requirements

Complete the Google form with the following information:

- Inspiration statement (400 words max): Explain the narrative of your design with respect to the criteria, and its intended impacts on humans and birds.
- Designer or team information.
- Your bird-safe design that meets requirements, and submitted as PDF.

Part 2: Building Profile

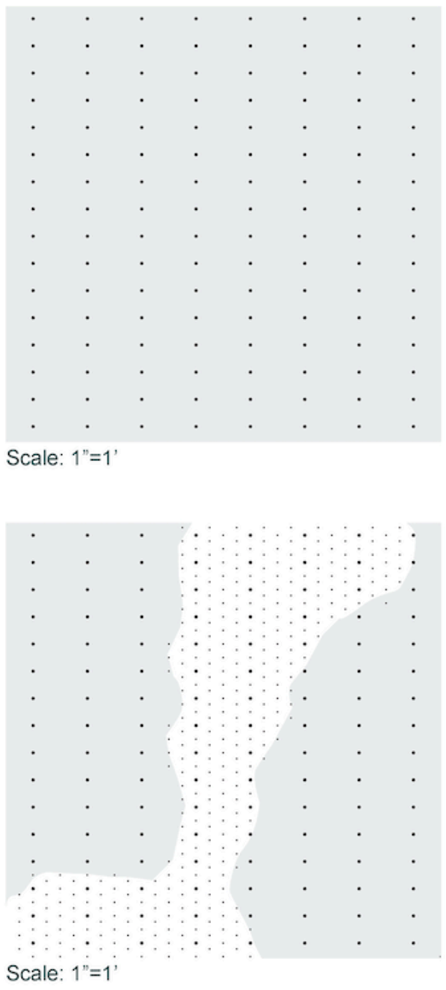
Design Area

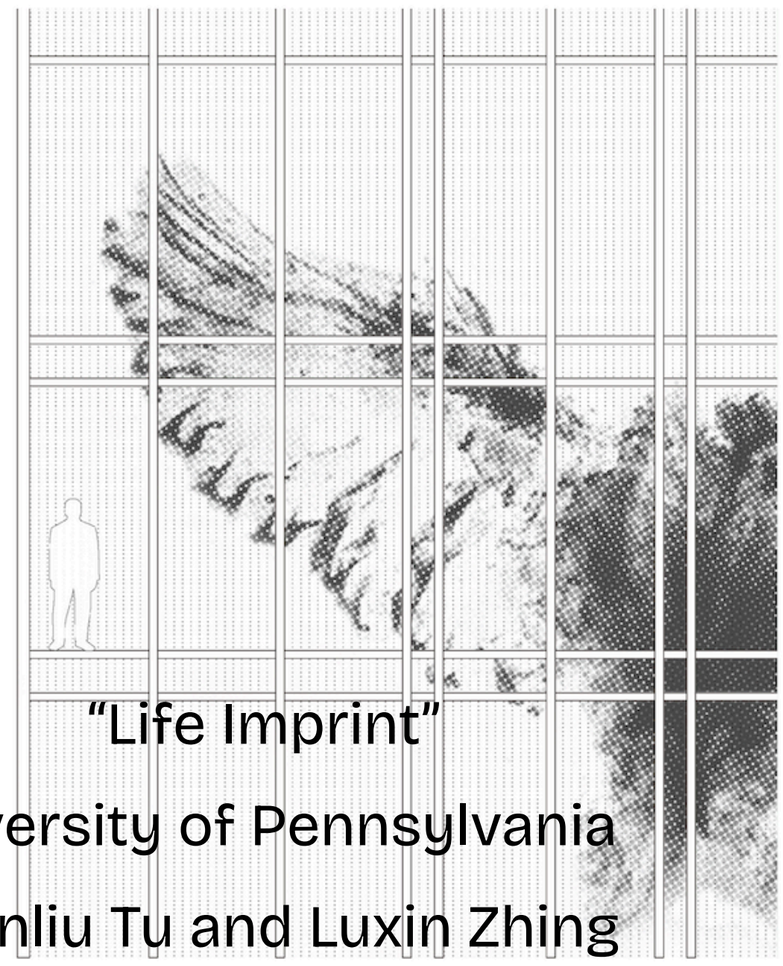
The 15 panes in the center facing the Stocking Hall patio are available for your design. The lower windows on the sides (to the left of the 15-pane section) will use the standard Feather Friendly dot pattern (pictured pg. 11). Plan your design with the understanding that it will be placed among dot-patterned windows to the left of it. The location of your design will cover the lower panels shown below. Each window panel measures 96 inches by 39 inches. Please design with the existing mullions in mind, as your artwork will be applied panel-by-panel and must align across the separated panes.

Building Use

Stocking Hall is home to the Department of Food Science and the iconic Cornell Dairy Bar. The building also houses the Dairy Plant, Teaching Winery, and Food Innovation Lab. Designers are encouraged to draw inspiration from any of these spaces, themes, or activities in their artwork.

Part 3: Inspiration Gallery





“Life Imprint”

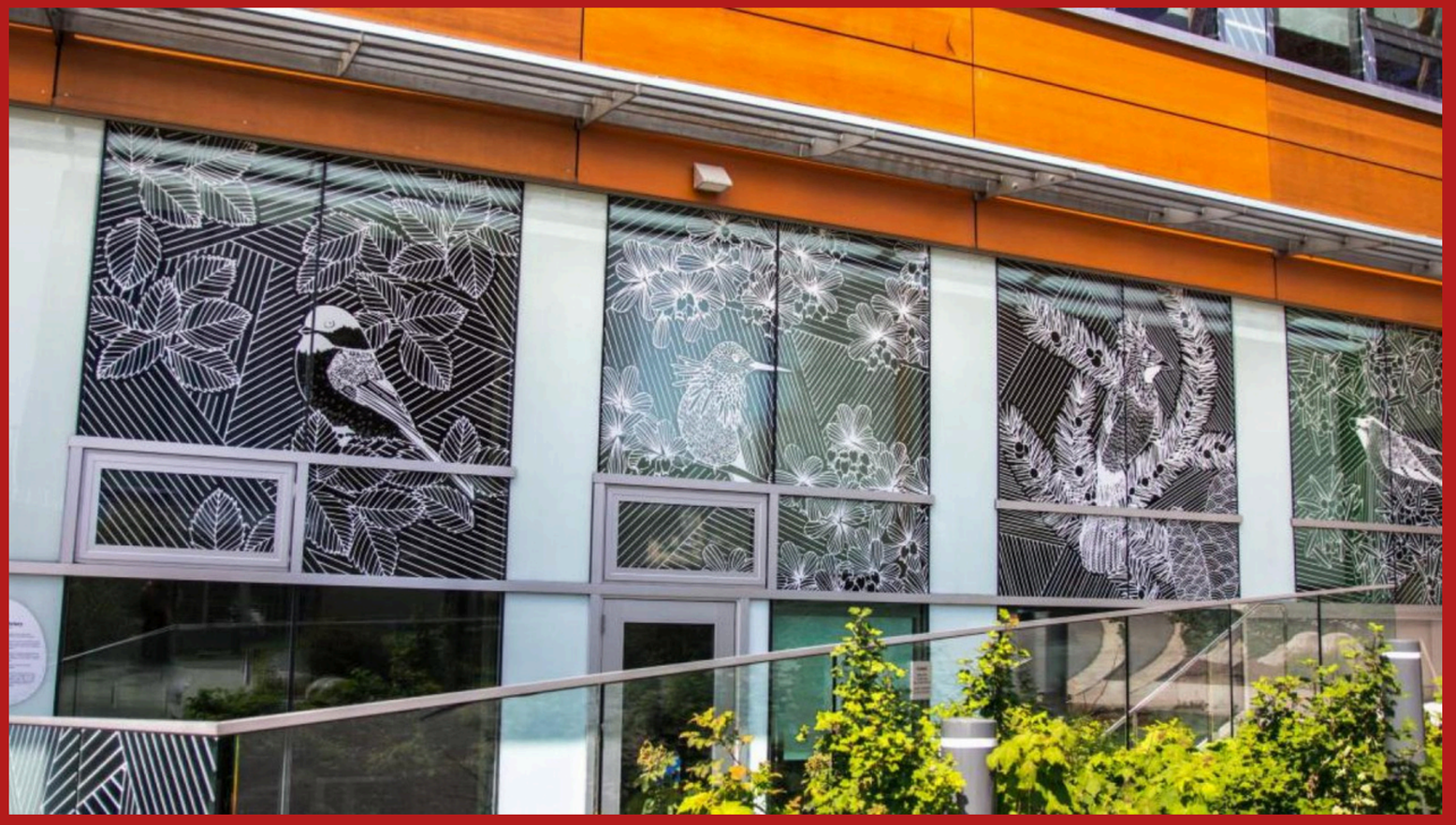
University of Pennsylvania

Wenliu Tu and Luxin Zhing

“Albireo’s Aviary”

University of British Columbia

Lora Zosia Moon



“Birds from UMass Campus Pond to the Woods of Orchard Hill”

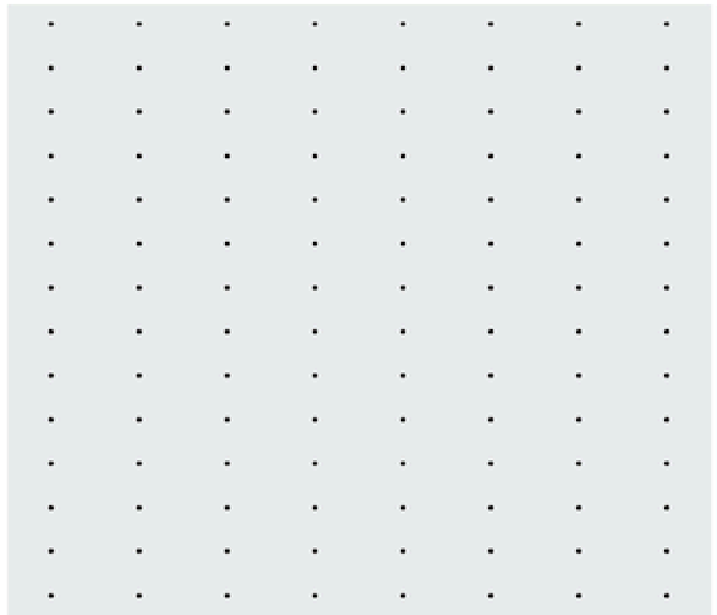
UMass Amherst

Margaret Lepeshkin

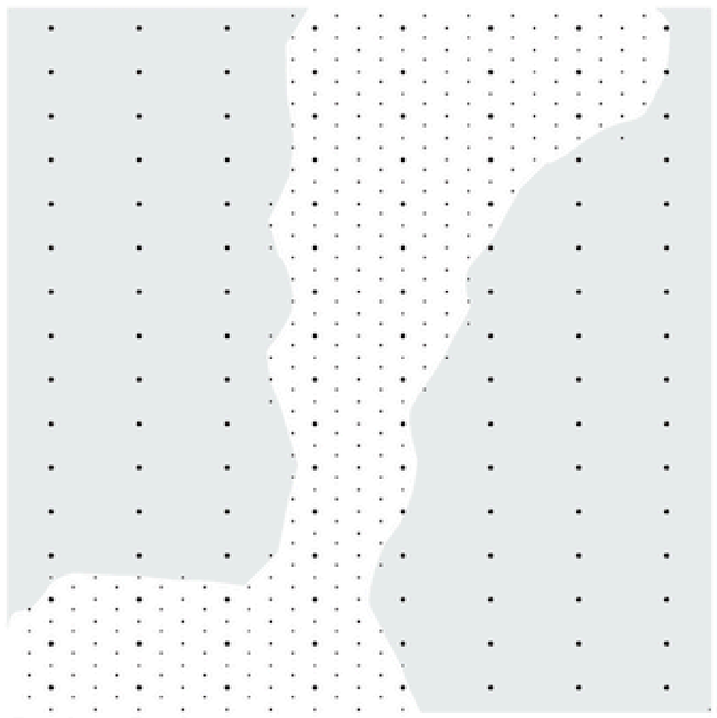
“Life Imprint”

University of Pennsylvania

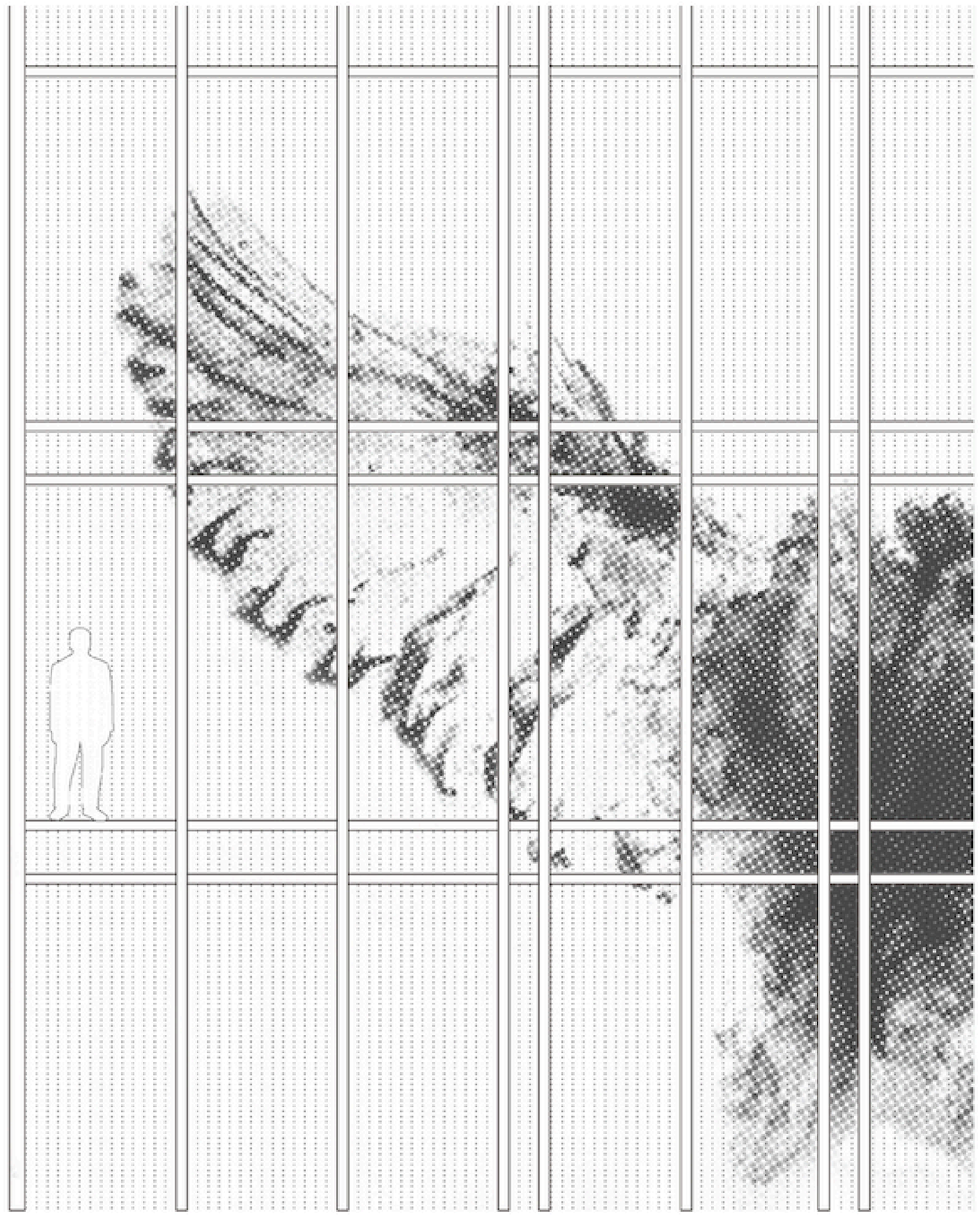
Wenliu Tu and Luxin Zhing



Scale: 1”=1’



Scale: 1”=1’



“Birds from UMass Campus Pond to the Woods of Orchard Hill”

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Margaret Lepeshkin

Photo by Bridget Macdonald/USFWS

“Albireo’s Aviary”

University of British Columbia

Lora Zosia Moon

Photo by Daniela Orbegoso Campbell

Feather Friendly Standard Dot Pattern

The dot pattern is scaled at 2" x 2" to deter the smallest of birds from glass

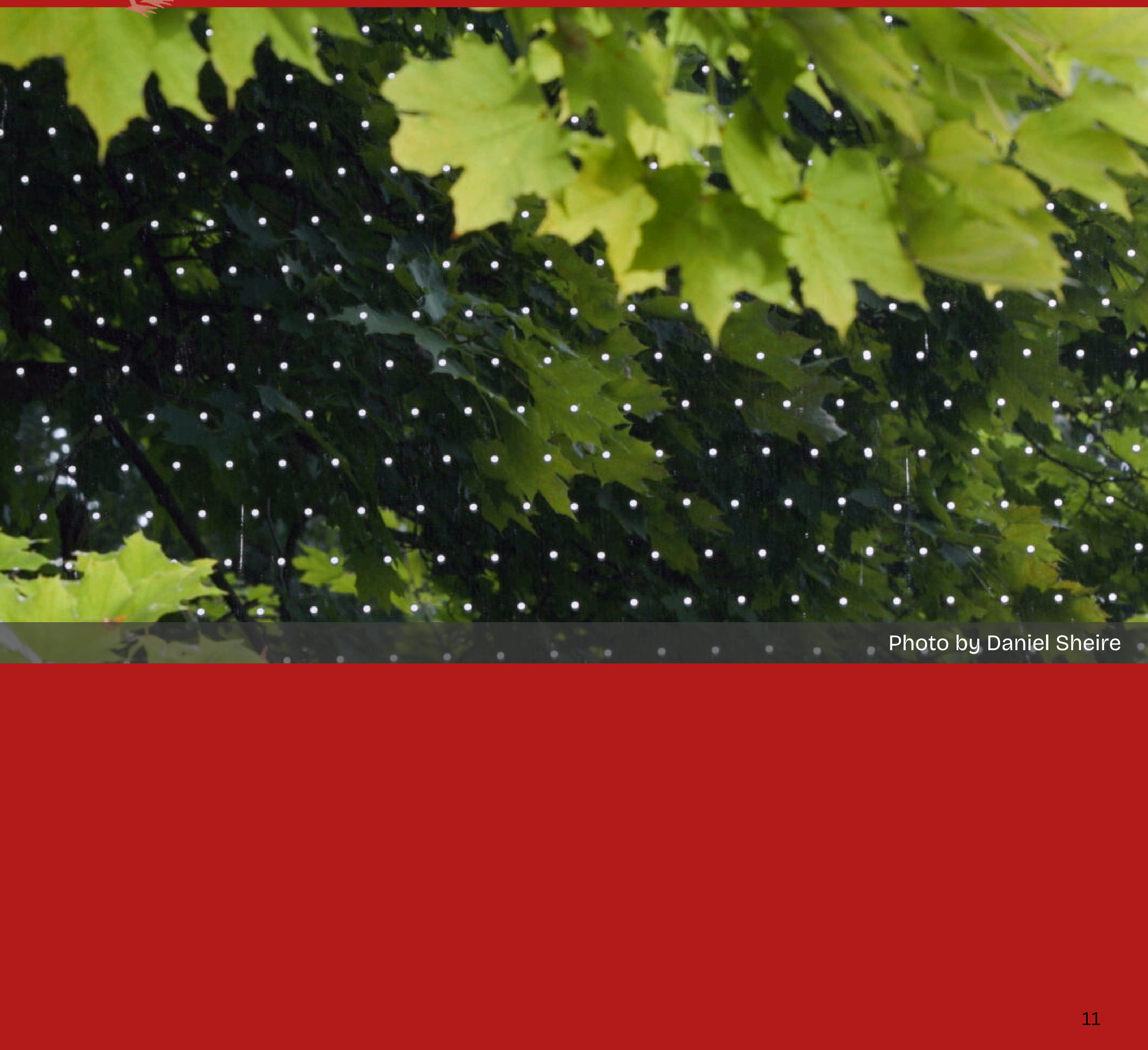


Photo by Daniel Sheire

Part 4: Why Birds Hit Glass

Birds can’t see where glass is.
When birds see food or vegetation through or reflected on glass, they will hit the glass trying to reach it.

Collision deterrents must be placed on the exterior of the glass and span the whole surface. Markings must be spaced no more than 2 inches apart. This spacing ensures the safety of birds with even the smallest wingspans, such as hummingbirds.

Photo by John Benam

One billion birds

die from window collisions in the United States every year.

Even if collision victims appear to "shake it off" and fly away, most birds who collide with glass perish off-site due to internal injuries and vulnerability to predators.

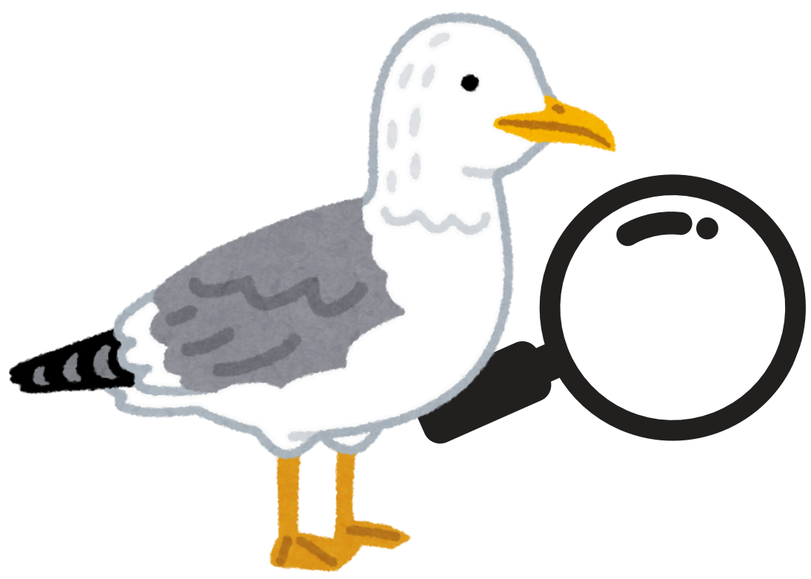
Though certain species are known to be more at risk of collision, all kinds of birds are threatened by glass and glass collisions have been recorded for hundreds of species.

Photo of Brown Creeper by Bird Safe Maine

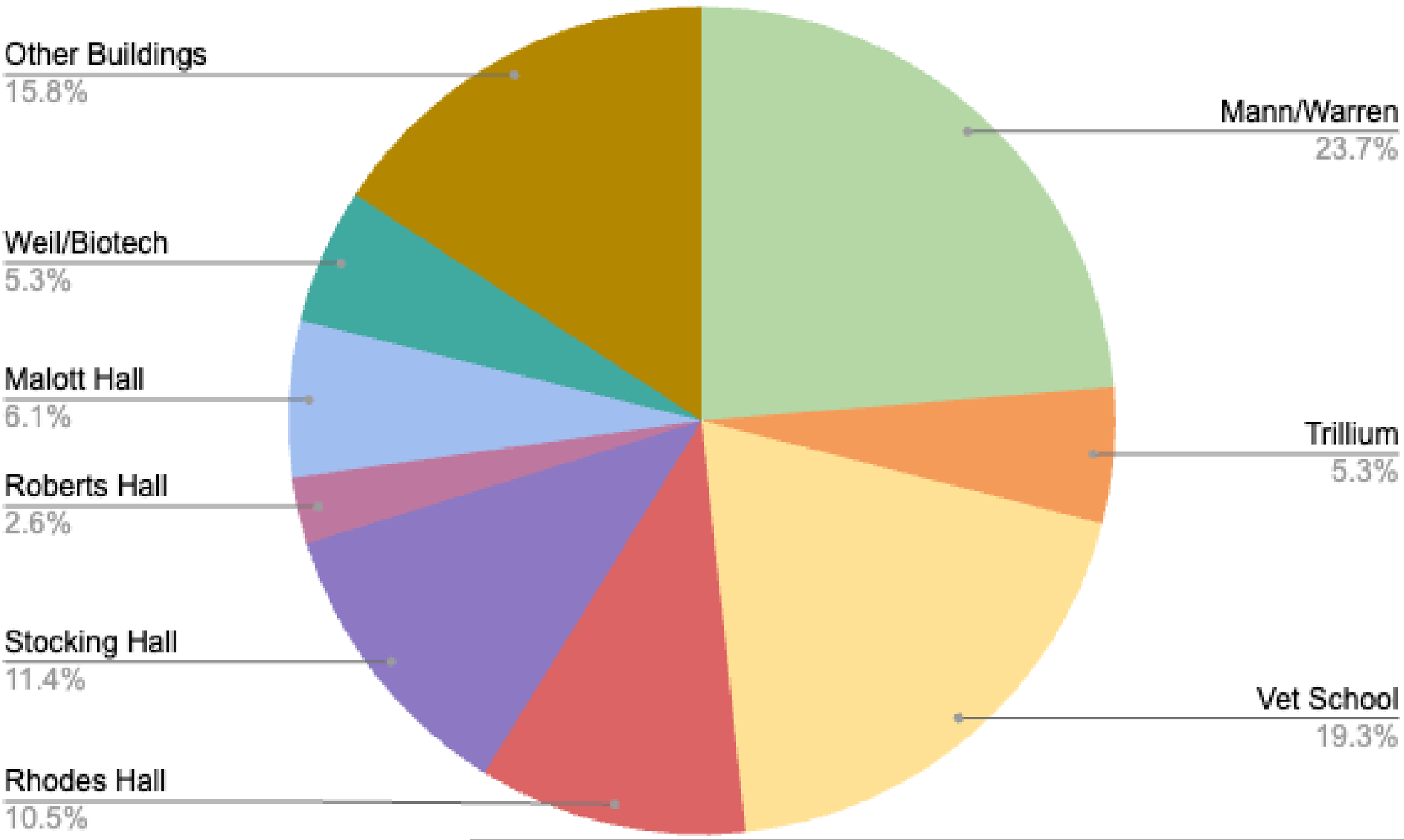
Part 5: Collisions on Campus

Where are Bird Collisions Happening at Cornell?

Since monitoring began in 2015, there have been 168 reported bird collisions on campus. 114 of these reports specified the building where they occurred.



The chart below shows the percentages of where specified strikes on campus have occured. All data comes from volunteers and individual reports on campus.



Graph generated by Tara Sandhu Pollock based on volunteer data