

Residential Wind and Birds

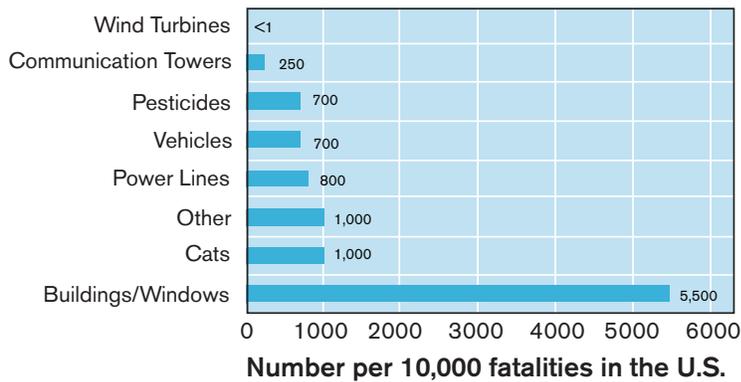
As residential small wind generators gain popularity around the world, its becoming clear they do not pose a significant hazard to birds. Extensive bird research has been done with large wind generators and has shown that bird strikes do occur but are relatively rare. Furthermore, although no formal studies have been conducted with residential wind generators like those produced by Southwest Windpower, bird strikes are even rarer. This is due in part to their shorter towers. 30-110 ft (9-30 m) and relatively small blades, 3-12 ft (1-3 m) in diameter. Also, residential wind generators are typically installed over a more dispersed area, further reducing the chance of bird collision.

Large wind farms are sometimes associated with risks for birds. In fact, such farms only account for a tiny percentage of the bird fatalities caused by man-made structures. Structures including buildings, vehicles, power lines and radio and TV towers affect far more birds than even the largest wind generators.

Advancements in Bird Life Preservation

Large wind farms have made significant advances in reducing their impact on birds. Since the earliest wind farms were built, wind experts have learned critical lessons in bird preservation. Today, thorough wildlife surveys are conducted prior to new wind farm construction, to ensure that wind farms do not interfere with migratory pathways.

Causes of Bird Fatalities



Source: Erickson, et.al, 2002. "Summary of Anthropogenic Causes of Bird Mortality" Proceedings of the 2002 International Partner's in Flight Conference, Monterrey, California.

