

The Bird Banding Laboratory of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center reports that 68 of the 137,889 banded Brown Creepers in its records have been relocated.

It documents that the creeper survived its initial collision, was given the opportunity to breed and make another round-trip migration, only to encounter the same set of hazards. It is a sober testament that birds will not “learn” to avoid glass.

Both of the buildings where this bird suffered a collision were constructed in the steel skeleton-glass

curtain wall style popularized by Mies van der Rohe. Although collisions can and do occur at any structure having transparent or reflective glass, CBCM records confirm that this building design, so widespread in downtown Chicago, proves especially deadly to birds.

More than one billion birds die each year in North America as a result of window collisions (Klem 2010), which points to the urgent need to support bird-safe building design, glass, lighting and landscaping.

## Acknowledgments

CBCM appreciates assistance from the Field Museum, Chicago, IL and Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Glen Ellyn, IL in documenting this migratory record.

## Literature Cited

Klem, D., Jr. 2010. Avian mortality at windows: The second largest human source of bird mortality on Earth. Proceedings of the Fourth International Partners in Flight Conference: Tundra to Tropics: 244-251.

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## A Lovely Pair



A pair of Tree Swallows perches on a crabapple tree.  
Greene Valley Forest Preserve, DuPage County.

20 April 2010.

*Photo by Brian Tang.*