



Bird Safe Philly
Bird Collision Monitoring Study
Independence National Historical Park, 2001-2024

[Bird Safe Philly](#) – a collaborative organization managed by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Society, the Valley Forge Audubon Society, and the Liberty Bird Alliance (formerly Wyncote Audubon Society) was formed in October 2020 to promote practices and policies that will better protect birds in the greater Philadelphia region from collisions with glass and other types of structures. Bird Safe Philly has monitored Independence National Historical Park for bird collisions during migration seasons and promoted initiatives to reduce these incidents. Monitoring has been conducted on the Café, Independence Visitor Center, Liberty Bell Center, National Constitution Center, and President’s House. This report summarizes collision monitoring results at the park from 2021 to 2024.

Since 2021, 635 bird collisions have been documented at the park, with 474 (75%) involving just 12 species. Of these birds, the three species for which the greatest number of collisions were documented are the Ovenbird (113), White-throated Sparrow (89), and Common Yellowthroat (74), which combined account for 276 or 43% of all the collisions documented. While 11 of the 12 most frequently documented species are native, migratory species, the list also includes the House Sparrow, a non-native species. Overall collision monitoring results are shown in Tables 1 and 2 for spring and Tables 3 and 4 for fall collision monitoring.

Table 1. Overall collision monitoring results at INHP, spring 2021- 2024.

BIRD SAFE PHILLY - OFFICIAL COLLISION MONITORING STUDY Independence National Historical Park Spring 2021-2024 Overall collision monitoring results				
Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
Monitoring period	Apr 26 - May 30	Apr 25 - May 29	Apr 23 - May 31	Apr 14 - May 31
Number of days monitored	32/35	30/35	39/39	37/47
Number of species found	21	15	15	13
Number of individual birds found	96	51	53	54
Percentage of dead birds	64	67	55	70

Location	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
National Constitution Center	60	63	32	63	28	53	28	52
Independence Visitor Center	26	27	16	31	15	28	21	39
Liberty Bell Center	7	13	2	4	6	11	4	7
President's House	1	1	1	2	2	4	1	2
Café	2	2	0	0	2	4	0	0

N = number of birds

Table 2. Number of collisions species with three or more birds at INHP, spring 2021-2024.

BIRD SAFE PHILLY - OFFICIAL COLLISION MONITORING STUDY Independence National Historical Park Spring 2021-2024 Species with 3 or more individuals			
Spring 2021	Spring 2022	Spring 2023	Spring 2024
Ovenbird 37 (39%)	Ovenbird 14 (27%)	Ovenbird 14 (26%)	Ovenbird 26 (48%)
Black-and-white Warbler 10	Common Yellowthroat 7	Common Yellowthroat 9	Black-and-white Warbler 3
Common Yellowthroat 9	Gray Catbird 6	White throated Sparrow 6	Common Yellowthroat 3
House Sparrow 6	Black-and-white Warbler 5	Gray Catbird 5	Gray Catbird 3
White-throated Sparrow 4	Northern Parula 4	Black-and-white Warbler 4	
Black-throated Blue Warbler 3		House Sparrow 3	
Veery 3			

Table 3. Overall collision monitoring results at INHP, fall 2021- 2024.

BIRD SAFE PHILLY - OFFICIAL COLLISION MONITORING STUDY Independence National Historical Park Fall 2021-2024 Overall collision monitoring results								
Year	2021		2022		2023		2024	
Monitoring period	Aug 30 - Nov 14		Aug 29 - Oct 30		Aug 27 - Nov 15		Sep 1 - Nov 19	
Number of days monitored	53/77		37/63		58/81		67/80	
Number of species found	22		24		24		25	
Number of individual birds found	107		69		85		120	
Percentage of dead birds	63		72		72		71	
Location	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
National Constitution Center	57	53	34	49	46	54	86	72
Independence Visitor Center	42	39	32	46	37	44	28	23
Liberty Bell Center	7	7	0	0	1	1	2	2
President's House	1	0.9	1	1.4	0	0	2	2
Café	0	0	2	3	1	1.2	2	2

N = number of birds

Table 4. Number of collisions species with three or more birds at INHP, fall 2021-2024.

BIRD SAFE PHILLY - OFFICIAL COLLISION MONITORING STUDY Independence National Historical Park Fall 2021-2024 Species with 3 or more individuals			
Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024
Common Yellowthroat 17 (16%)	White-throated Sparrow 12 (17%)	White-throated Sparrow 16 (19%)	White-throated Sparrow 36 (30%)
Song Sparrow 12	Common Yellowthroat 10	Song Sparrow 10	Swamp Sparrow 11
White-throated Sparrow 12	Ovenbird 7	Common Yellowthroat 9	Common Yellowthroat 10
Swamp Sparrow 9	Gray Catbird 4	Ovenbird 7	Song Sparrow 10
Gray Catbird 7	Black-and-white Warbler 3	Hermit Thrush 6	Dark-eyed Junco 8
Dark-eyed Junco 4	Dark-eyed Junco 3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5	Blackpoll Warbler 6
Ovenbird 4	Swamp Sparrow 3	Ruby-throated Hummingbird 3	Black-and-white Warbler 4
American Woodcock 3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3	House Wren 3	House Sparrow 4
Black-and-white Warbler 3			Ovenbird 4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3			Field Sparrow 3
			Hermit Thrush 3

Since 2021, 635 collisions involving 53 species have been documented at the INHP, though many more likely went undetected. This can happen for several reasons: monitoring may not be conducted at certain times of the day or year; monitors may be unable to access some areas; people, scavengers, or predators may remove collided birds before detection; or birds may collide and fly away before a collision is recorded.

In response to the data collected by Bird Safe Philly about collisions at INHP, the current management team has begun planning and made a commitment to address collisions at the park by retrofitting the windows of collision prone buildings. This first building scheduled for retrofitting is the Liberty Bell Pavillion and work began March 2026.

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