# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu**.*

**Project Name:** Preventing bird window strike deaths at the University of Illinois campus

**Date of Report Submission:** 9/9/2021

**Project Purpose:**

1. survey the UIUC campus for bird window strikes during fall and spring migrations

2. install bird deterrent window decals on the highest risk buildings

3. assess long-term effects of window decals on bird window strike frequency

4. use collected birds as education resources

**Detailed Accounting of Expenditures to Date:**

We have purchased a new freezer to store our collected birds. The freezer will serve as long term storage for all collected birds for the project. It is located on the 4th floor of the Natural History Building (NE corner in hallway) next to the University Ornithology Teaching Collection and a taxidermy preparation room. **The cost of the freezer is offset by a $600 grant we received from the Champaign Audubon Society in September 2020.**

**Expenditures to Date**

-9/28/20 Amana 9cu ft chest freezer **$509.98**

**Project Progress to Date:**

- Completed campus surveys for fall 2019, fall 2020, and spring 2021

- Involved undergraduate campus groups in leadership of the project including, The Wildlife Society Student Chapter and Landscape Architects undergraduate groups

- Initiated collaborations and discussions with groups and buildings on campus, such as the new Seibel Center for Design

- Presented the project to the Champaign County Audubon Society and received funding from their leadership committee for funding the surveys

- Began collaborations with the American Bird Conservancy, a non-profit organization that is setting the standards for window specifications and requirements

- Garnered support from the Director of the Beckman Institute and had collaborative meetings with their Director of F&S, Assist Directors, and original architect of the building

- Presented our survey data and proposed solutions to the U of I Board of Trustees

- Created contacts with the campus Architectural Review Committee

**Student Involvement and Outreach to Date:**

Student Involvement:

We have increased our undergraduate participation in the project-- Colin Dobson (cdobson2@illinois.edu) is now part of our team’s planning and further integration with undergraduates. We have also worked with undergraduates in the landscape architecture program and wildlife society to increase participation in the project.

Outreach:

We have presented results of our 2019 survey to the Champaign Audubon Society (October 2019) and faculty of the Integrative Biology Department (Graduates in Ecology and Evolutionary biology annual conference, February 2020).

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

We have put out calls for survey participation amongst the biology community on campus and are seeking extra funding from the Champaign Audubon Society. We are also re-designing a logo and promotional material for our project with the Outreach personnel at the Institute for Genomic Biology.

**Additional Comments:**

COVID-19 has prevented us from leading in-person bird skin preparation workshops with undergraduates and has hampered our communication with building managers at the Beckman Institute.

We have followed up regularly and repeatedly with Beckman Institute leadership and been met with dismissive and ambivalent attitudes on moving this project forwards. We have proposed specific solutions that meet all the guidelines, including the university’s new energy efficient initiative, but the window modifications that we have proposed are supposedly being passed around for approval to groups with which we do not have direct contact.