Three Rivers Avian Center
Data: 1990 - 2007

Cause of Injury: Collisions

Cause of Injury (left chart, y-axis labels top to bottom):
Abandoned, Baby, Beaten w/stick, Blasting, Burn, Captive, Chicken stomped, Cloacal Impaction, Col:Airplane, Col:Building, Col:Fam Equipment, Col:Fence, Col:Ground, Col:Light Tower, Col:Pavement, Col:Power line, Col:Train, Col:Tree, Col:TV Tower, Col:Unknown, Col:Utility line, Col:Utility Pole, Col:Vehicle, Col:Water, Col:Window, Conjunctivitis, Cork stomped, Diesel spill, Disease, Disease: Avian Pox, Disease:Aspergillois, Disease:Conjunctivitis, Disease: Staph, Disease:Uri, Disease: WNV, Electrocution, Ent: Badmitten Net, Entang:Barbed Wire, Entang:Brush, Entang:Electric Fence, Entang:Fence, Entang:Fishhook, Entang:Fishing line, Entang:Mistnet, Entang:Netting, Entang:Power Line, Entang:Snake, Entang:Spider Web, Entang:String, Entang:Trampoline, Entang:Tree, Entang:Unknown, Entrap: Chicken Coop, Entrap: Leg trap, Entrap:Building, Entrap:Chimnet, Entrap:Feeder, Entrap:Glue Trap, Entrap:House, Entrap:outbuilding, Entrap:Pool/Pond, Entrap: Spider Web, Entrap:Water Trough, Entrap:Yard, Entrapment, Entrapment:vehicle, Exhaustion, Exposure, Fell from Chimney, Fell From Nest, Fell in motor oil, Fell in Stream, Felled Tree, fishing hook, Flipstrike, Found in Lake, Frostbite, Genetic, Glue Trap, Gluttony, Grounded, Gunshot, Hail Storm, Human Interference, Imprinted, Improperly Caged, Infection, Injured, Kicked by Kids, Lead Poisoning, Left Nest Too Soon, Leg Trap, Milbond, Mobbed(crows), Nest:Destroyed, Nest Dstroyed, Neuroglogical, None, Orphan, Paralize, Poison, Poison: Insecticide, Poison: Lead, Poison: Paint, Poison: Pesticide, Pred:Cat, Pred:Dog, Pred:Mint, Pred:Raptor, Pred:shake, Pred:Snapping Turtle, Predated, Predated: Crows, Pressure Washer, Prey Bitten, Prey Bitten, Punctture, Restoration Project, Ruptured Crop, sibilico, Seizures, Stunned, Sour Crop, Starvation, storm, Storm/Tree fell, Strangulation, Suspected:WNV, Swallowed hook, Tamed, Toe:Amputation?, Toxicity (Rat Poison), Toxicity (Unknown), Trap, Unknown, Weedeater, WNV

Of all the causes of injury we see at TRAC, the one that clearly stands out as most prevalent are the collisions, which taken as a group, are the largest category of injury cause (blue box at top left).

The breakdown of collisions is at right. While we have a large group of "unknown" collision causes, it seems reasonable to assume that they will more or less distribute themselves among the existing categories and not significantly affect the conclusion that vehicles and glass are the leading cause of bird injury.

But beyond this obvious fact, there are important hidden contributing factors. We know for example, that poisoned birds are slow, poor navigators and should more rightly be classified under "poison". This is exemplified by 2 Bald Eagles treated at TRAC, both of which were struck by trains and only after blood testing, were re-categorized at lead poisoned. Unfortunately, there are most likely many such undetected "true" causes of injury.