

Experience with vehicles does not help birds avoid collisions

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Researchers suspected that experience with passing vehicles may cause birds to adjust their avoidance responses-specifically, to increase their flight initiation distances-to keep from being hit. Instead, though, they recently found that inexperienced birds have longer flight initiation distances in response to oncoming vehicles than birds that have repeatedly observed passing, fast-moving vehicles.

Also, even the heightened avoidance response of inexperienced [birds](#) was inadequate to cope with high vehicle speeds.

"Our study suggests that [habituation](#) to passing aircraft and automobiles could contribute to the frequency of bird collisions with these high-speed vehicles that are common worldwide," said Dr. Travis DeVault, lead author of the *Journal of Zoology* article.

More information: T. L. DeVault et al. Can experience reduce collisions between birds and vehicles?, *Journal of Zoology* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/jzo.12385](#)

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