

### **Award Winner Autumn Iverson Abstract:**

Recent research has shown that in just the past 50 years, about 3 billion, or 30%, of North American birds have disappeared, leaving us in a conservation crisis. Birds are essential for healthy ecosystems and provide many economic benefits from both ecosystem services and recreation. While the cause of these declines is multifaceted, window collisions are a leading cause of human-related bird deaths, estimated at 550 million to 1 billion deaths every year in the United States. California is home to 2/3 of the bird species that occur in the United States and is a large part of the migratory path of the Pacific Flyway, therefore the actions taken here will have a major impact on the survival of North American birds. Windows on low-rise and residential buildings account for 99% of collisions and affordable options to prevent these collisions exist, yet there is currently no state-wide requirement to alter building codes and prevent these deaths. The solution to this problem is to include bird-safe building design as a building code requirement on any new construction or retrofitting in California. Similar legislation and ordinances have been passed in cities and states across the country, many of which include cities in California, demonstrating broad support across the state. It is time for California to implement this requirement state-wide to more aggressively address our declining bird populations.