

Silhouettes can deter reflections for birds

How many times have you heard a dull thud against your window, ran outside, and there below the enlarged mirrored surface, found a quivering songbird, wondering what hit him!

Thousands of our feathered friends are killed each year by simply battering glittering skyscrapers or farmhouse kitchen windows, unwittingly and unnecessarily.

Birds usually hit windows because of reflections. Images of outside trees and sky seem to perfectly blend together with the real thing. Hawks and owls have been found hitting windows while trying to capture a pet canary on the other side. Birds will even fight with their

own reflections, trying to protect their territory from themselves, and then killing themselves during the dispute.

It is possible to eliminate the reflection on the window by adjusting the curtains or blinds, or placing light directly towards the window from the inside. But the most effective measure is to fasten an object, such as a black silhouette of a sharpshin hawk, on the window, giving the bird something to focus on, and at the same time give a chance for the bird to notice the glass.

Other objects that can be fastened on the outside of the window include paper flowers, colorful decals, stained glass ornaments, even children's attempts at hawk silhouettes - as long as there is an object breaking the reflection.

None of these methods is foolproof. Birds will sometimes dash into a window cluttered by deterrents.

I have known people to string an invisible netting, made of white and black nylon in two inch squares, across a window. They are virtually invisible, allowing the bird to bounce



Nature's Way
By
KEVIN CALLAN

safely away from the danger. The netting must be kept taut, however, to avoid the birds from becoming entangled.

If the bird found below the window is only stunned, it may be saved. They are usually suffering from a concussion which means the brain has swollen.

Being vulnerable from predators, it's best to pick the bird up and bring it inside. Place the patient in a box or paper bag, lined with paper towel or soft cloth, and then place it in total darkness.

Keep the bird alone for an hour, making sure not to check inside the box every minute, even if you hear it banging about. Time will heal, allowing the swelling to go down and the bird to become oriented once again. If the patient has fully recovered simply place the opened box outside, away from any windows, and allow the bird to fly away of its own free will.

If the bird does not recover in an hour or two, then believe me, experience has shown me you've done the best you could.

Take note

Curling bonspiel

The third annual Appeal Spiel will be held by Big Brothers Saturday, March 23 at the Oakville Curling Club. Big Brothers are looking for 10 more curling teams interested in participating in the bonspiel. Team members have to raise a minimum of \$500 in pledges. For more information, call Evelyn at 847-7267.

Adult learners

Anyone thinking of completing their high school education or upgrading skills can contact Georgetown District High School at 877-6966. Session 3 starts Feb. 4, with registration Jan. 24 and 25 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lockhart Education Centre, south of Mapleview Mall. For registration information, call 878-1240. Courses are provided by Adult and Continuing Education of the Halton Board of Education.

No smoking

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Stats Canada figures a 6.5 percent decline in the consumption of cigarettes and cigarette tobacco in 1989; this is the largest single year decline in the past decade.

Figures for the first six months of 1990 indicate that the decline is continuing with fine (loose) cut sales also declining significantly. Cigarette tobacco consumption per person, 15 years of age or older, declined almost 30 percent between 1980 and 1989.

The legislation that is in place is not perfect but it is a significant improvement over previous laws. We as concerned individuals should keep abreast of the laws and lobby our municipal, provincial and federal politicians for tougher penalties and stricter enforcement.



CORRECTION NOTICE

Deal #302 - RED HOT BUYS FLYER CORRECTION AD

Page 6 - Product #58-8328-8 = Mastercraft 12" Adjustable Wrench.

Copy reads:

Mastercraft 12" Adjustable Wrench. Guaranteed for life. This is incorrect.

Should read:

No Name 12" Adjustable Wrench. Guaranteed for 1 year.

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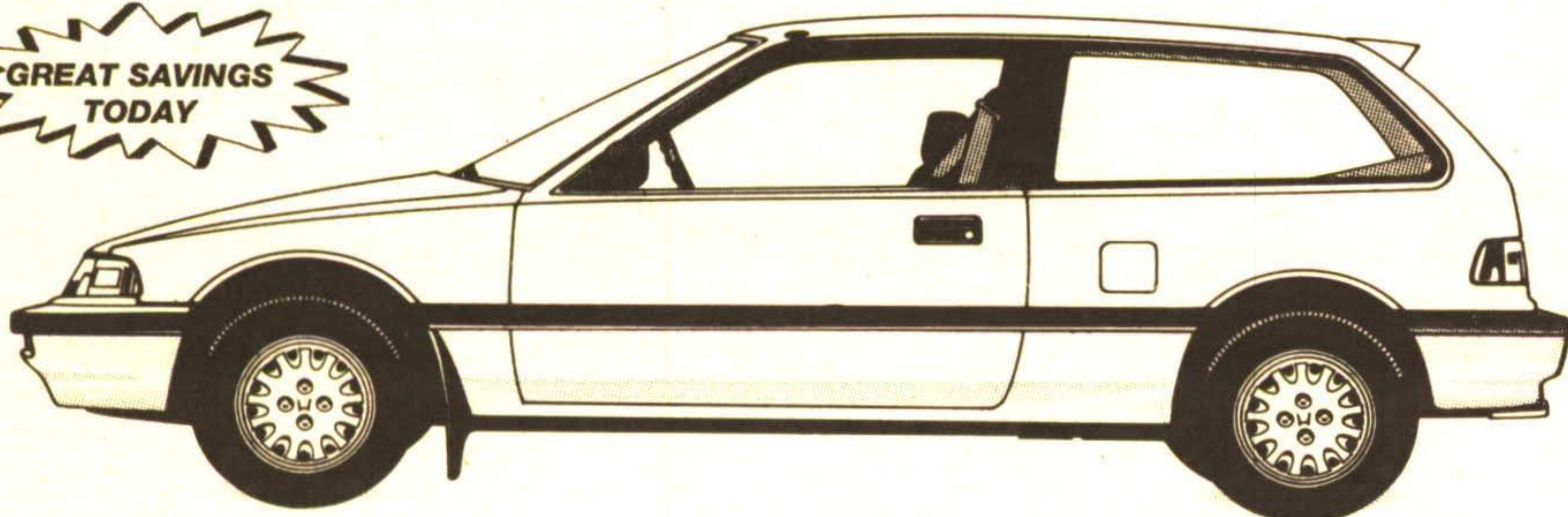
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