



Annual Impact Report 2023-24
EARTHCARE
NORTHWEST

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION
ANNUAL REPORT

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A Fond Farewell to Our Current Home

In 1996, the same year “Macarena” was dominating the radio waves and Dolly the sheep was born, Birds Connect Seattle moved into the 8050 35th Ave building in Wedgwood. Charming, homey, and humble are all words that have been used to describe the building nestled amongst ferns, under a fir and dogwood tree canopy. With the building now up for sale and plans for our relocation underway, it is with fondness that we prepare to say goodbye and

thank you to this location for all it has done in service to the many birds and people who have made memories and nests there. Read a few memories from our community and share your own.

(continued on next page) >>>

This issue was delivered to member homes in December 2024. Join or renew today to make sure you don't miss the next issue of EarthCare Northwest.

BIPOC Bird Outings

by Ian Jan, Trip Leader and NextGen Member

My partner, Gina, and I got into birding after seeing people with binoculars in late 2022. While learning about our local birds, we began searching for a birding community. We joined Birds Connect Seattle (BCS) shortly after. We quickly fell in love with birding—walking routes, new bird calls to remember, and easy opportunities to converse with a curious passerby. However, we often felt isolated as the few—if any—folks of color when exploring nature or attending outings. As newcomers to the hobby, we were seeking

a sense of belonging. Gina and I thought bird outings would be a perfect way to connect with others and fill in the gap of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-centered programming at BCS, which has struggled historically with inclusivity.

In May, we hosted our very first BIPOC-focused outing at our favorite spot: Union Bay Natural Area. Gina and I didn't know what to expect, but we were so excited to be standing before the attendees that morning. There was a powerful feeling among our group that we were breaking new ground for the bright future of BCS. We saw a flurry of bird activity, including Osprey soaring and the elusive Virginia Rail in the marsh. We'll always remember the appreciation from our new friends for creating a space to commemorate our individual yet shared identities.

Since that inaugural outing, we have hosted four additional outings, and this is just the beginning. Most importantly, we recognized that improving equity involves deliberately welcoming those who may not have experienced a sense of belonging before. We're excited to spread the love of birds to a more diverse audience!



BIPOC Birding event | Ian Jan

➤➤➤ A Fond Farewell - continued



“When I first started selling my sewing, I wanted it sold in the Nature Shop with the profits benefiting the birds. The shop contributes greatly to the mission, and I want to be there when we open up in the new location.”

Virginia Morrison, Nature Shop volunteer vendor



“The garden really demonstrates not just native plants, but also demonstrates HOW to create habitat for birds on a small urban lot. With the emphasis on bird-safe cities, we need to encourage people to do more of that.”

Van Bobbitt, Garden and facilities volunteer



“I am grateful for every volunteer, employee, neighbor, and customer who has contributed to our journey over the years. While we are saying goodbye to this space, I look forward to creating new memories and building and maintaining those relationships in our next chapter.”

Mechio Hardeman, Nature Shop Manager



“It's not about the building, it is about the place, or the sense of place. It's about having friends you have fun with, even if it isn't always about birds. My hope for the organization is that we keep this same sense of place.”

Russ Steele, Former employee and current volunteer



Nature Shop volunteers Karen and Ben

Share your favorite memories at:

bit.ly/BCSkudos
or scan this QR code



Program Highlights 2023-24



2,316

adult education program participants in 221 classes, workshops, and outings



762

volunteers, giving 17,921 hours of their time in 40 different roles and committees

67,429

pounds of bird seed sold in The Nature Shop



3,544

youth receiving environmental education



51,146

birds recorded in five community science data collection surveys



1,759

people inspired through 42 community outreach events

3,449

individual members from 2,558 households



220+

visiting or resident bird species inspiring local conservation



While these statistics provide a snapshot of the year and represent many of the outputs that are vital to achieving the Birds Connect Seattle mission, they omit so much of the meaningful work that is happening behind the scenes between our members, volunteers, staff, and partners as they engage in our mission.

To that point, please also consider: the joy that birds bring to your life, the camaraderie of sharing a hobby with a new friend, the hope you might feel watching children outside in nature, the power of advocacy as you give voice to a cause you care about, or the value of feeling included and represented in conservation.

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From the Executive Director

As I reflect on all that we have accomplished together in 2024, I'm once again in awe at the depth and breadth of our programs. With the launch of another ambitious strategic plan, "Spreading Our Wings", we recommitted to putting our values into action. This means continuing to invest in inclusive programming and streamlining our operations. This is no better represented by the outstanding efforts of volunteers like Ian and Gina whose story you'll read in this issue. Of course, you'll also see a snapshot of our work by the numbers, but please understand that these figures represent so much more.

Speaking of stories, I feel a renewed energy humming within our community as we bid a fond farewell to our Wedgwood home. Birds truly do connect Seattle—they connect us all. Welcoming more people to a fully accessible space will only make that more true into the future.

Thank you for your unwavering support and joining us in this flight.



In gratitude and optimism,

Claire Catania
Executive Director

Financial Overview

for Fiscal Year of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

To all our members, thank you for investing in our mission to advocate and organize for cities where people and birds thrive. As a local, independent nonprofit organization, Birds Connect Seattle relies on diverse funding sources, especially the generosity of our community to fuel our programs.

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

REVENUE	
Membership	\$117,517
Contributions & Grants	\$391,346
Restricted Contributions	\$78,576
Bequests	\$78,531
Sales (net)	\$201,537
Program Fees	\$253,736
Investments	\$59,303
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,245,039

EXPENSES	
Programs*	\$861,340
Administration	\$190,928
Funding the Mission	\$265,576
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,317,844

**Includes the work of Urban Conservation, Education, Community Science, Community Engagement, and The Nature Shop*

Complete financial statements including 990 and audited financial statements available upon request.

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$142,118
Investments	\$796,588
Endowments	\$2,047,148
Receivables	\$3,890
Merchandise Inventory	\$283,427
Prepaid Expenses	\$14,552
Land, Building, & Equipment	\$269,290
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,557,013

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$28,328
Accrued Expenses	\$80,116
Deferred Revenue	\$80,871
Total Liabilities	\$189,315

Net Assets	
Without Restrictions	\$1,230,311
With Restrictions	\$2,137,387
Total Net Assets	\$3,367,698

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$3,557,013
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