



**BIRDS  
CONNECT  
SEATTLE**



Killdeer | Brian E. Kushner

# Fall 2025 EARTH CARE NORTHWEST

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## A Conservation Win at Volunteer Park

**Seattle Asian Art Museum Takes Action to Save Birds**

*by Joshua Morris, Conservation Director*

The Seattle Asian Art Museum, nestled in Capitol Hill's Volunteer Park since 1933, was originally bird-safe with its minimal windows and Art Deco design. However, a major renovation and expansion from 2017 to 2020 added a glass-heavy, three-story expansion—introducing significant risks for bird collisions, due to reflective and transparent surfaces.

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*This issue of EarthCare Northwest was mailed to member homes on September 22, 2025. Join or renew today to receive the next issue.*

## ➤➤ Seattle Asian Art Museum (cont.)

The museum was added to the Seattle Bird Collision Monitoring Project in 2023. After one season of monitoring, bird deaths at the museum were found to be 4–9 times higher than at Seattle University and up to 63 times higher than at residential sites. Nearly 90% of the collisions occurred along the northeast facade of the new wing.

In December 2023, museum staff responded quickly and positively to the findings, initiating internal steps to address the issue without external pressure. By spring 2024, they began testing bird-safe window treatments. In summer 2025, the museum installed Bird Divert—an American Bird Conservancy-approved collision prevention film—on the third-story windows of the problematic facade. This measure is expected to prevent hundreds of bird deaths over the coming years, while not obstructing the view for museum visitors.

This achievement highlights the power of community science. Thanks to the dedication of the Seattle Bird Collision Monitoring Project volunteers, and the generous support of members like you, real change is happening—saving lives, one building at a time.



## Angelina Villalobos Designs Bird-saving Window Art

*by Carol Roll, Development Director*

There are several factors that can make a window higher risk for a deadly bird-window collision. The reflected sky or vegetation, the architecture of the building, and the presence of a bird feeder can all contribute to the overall risk. The windows at Bird Connect Seattle's new downtown headquarters pose a minimal risk to birds, but we didn't want to miss the chance to utilize their high visibility to educate the public about collision deterrents, and just how beautiful they can be.

In 2021, Angelina Villalobos (a.k.a artist OneSevenNine) created a Varied Thrush collision deterrent art piece for our former Wedgwood location. When the opportunity arose to install a collision deterrent on our large picture windows in our new space downtown, we jumped at the opportunity to partner with her again.

Coming this fall, you will see Angelina's new designs grace our windows. Undulating feathers and wings will line Olive Way. Along our west-facing facade a dramatic 10-foot-tall motif featuring species from around the globe with a key message: SAVE BIRDS, will be installed, perfect for a photo op. As downtown attracts local, national, and international visitors, we aim to inspire everyone to take home the actionable conservation initiatives they've learned here and implement them in their own communities to protect wild birds.



Select pages from Carleen Zimmerman's personal nature journals

## Drawn to Nature: Observing Nature with a Pencil

Why do people sketch, photograph, or write in journals? For many, these creative expressions are a way to connect more deeply with the world around them. Our newest interactive exhibit, Drawn to Nature, by longtime member Carleen Ormbrek Zimmerman, explores how being a “birder with a sketchbook” has become a powerful tool for observation, learning, and appreciating nature.

Through Carleen's stunning personal nature journals, now on display, visitors can see firsthand how field sketching offers ways to slow down and engage with the beauty and complexity of the natural world. As Carleen shares, “My excuse for sketching has always been because I am drawn to birds. I teach others that field sketching is not drawing. It is about using art and language to record quick observations. It has become my way of creating personal visual diaries of the unique habitats, sounds, and behaviors of birds.”

This exhibit invites everyone—artists and non-artists alike—to create their own quick sketch of one of our bird specimens on display or head outside for a short urban nature walk and capture their observations as if it was a nature journal. Visitors are provided with art materials and inspiration to document sights and sounds.

Sketching can build awareness of our surroundings, offering insight into both the habitat and the broader community of people and wildlife we share it with. Whether through journaling, eBirding, scientific illustration, or simply pausing to observe, art can serve as a personal bridge between curiosity and conservation.

Drawn to Nature is the first in a series of rotating exhibits celebrating birds and the natural world at our downtown headquarters. Carleen will be teaching a sketching class on December 13. Visit our calendar for more details.



### Permanent and Rotating Exhibits

Our new headquarters features a variety of permanent exhibits, including a stunning two-story mural by Tori Shao, hundreds of preserved bird-skin specimens, and several art installations celebrating birds and their habitats.

In addition to these, we offer rotating exhibits that change regularly. These include feature exhibits like Drawn to Nature, which spotlight local bird species, and the Conservation Action Space, designed to inspire visitors with practical tips and advocacy opportunities to make their homes and communities safer for birds.



Current Exhibits

Visit to see the latest featured exhibits and receive a tour from our staff or docents.



Share Your Idea



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Read more conservation stories on our blog:  
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# From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

As the crisp air signals the arrival of fall, we have just completed a migration of our own—into our new downtown headquarters! While we’re settling into our new home, birds are beginning their remarkable seasonal journey south. It’s a poignant reminder of the rhythms of nature that inspire our work year-round.

In this issue, we're thrilled to share exciting updates that reflect both change and continuity in our mission. Learn how the Seattle Asian Art Museum is leading by example in protecting birds from window collisions, and discover how artist Angelina Villalobos is turning our windows into a bird-saving canvas. Inside our new space, the Drawn to Nature exhibit celebrates the power of observation. Our bird skins collection is also now on display, offering a rare, up-close look at the species we work to protect.

Thank you for being part of our flock, and wishing you a beautiful fall migration.



In gratitude,

Claire Catania  
 Executive Director

## Discovery Happens Every Day



### Drop in Events

Birds of Seattle Lunch & Learns: Wednesdays from 12:15-12:30 come for a lunchtime presentation about a favorite local bird.

Social Hour: The second Thursday of every month from 4-5:30 come for a guided activity based around a rotating theme like art creation, advocacy, urban nature, or binoculars 101.

### Binoculars, Books, Apparel, and Gifts

Shop all the fun retail offerings at our new nest. Members receive a 10% discount on all items, excluding optics and optics accessories.

Now open downtown Wednesday to Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and online anytime.



### A Library for Birdy Folks

Glean some new knowledge from our bird-focused library. From dazzling photo-filled guides to rare reference books on feathers and eggs, to travel-focused field guides, there is a cover for every member to explore.

