



**BIRDS
CONNECT
SEATTLE**



Barn Swallow | Sharon Wada

Summer 2025

EARTH CARE NORTHWEST

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Species to Watch in a Warming Climate

by Carol Roll, Development Director

As our climate changes, so too do the lives of birds. Shifts in temperature and precipitation affect everything from food and water availability during migration, to egg viability and seasonal cues for movement. Habitat loss from wildfires, invasive species, and flooding only adds to the challenges.

That's where Climate Watch comes in. This community science program, led nationally by the National Audubon Society, tracks how North

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BIRDS CONNECT SEATTLE

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birdsconnectsea.org

This issue of EarthCare Northwest was mailed to member homes on June 18, 2025.

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*Become a community scientist,
right from your phone.*

Quickly report bird-window collisions to help scientists across the country understand and prevent bird mortality.



➤➤➤ Warming Climate (cont.)

American birds are responding to climate change. The data collected is analyzed to better understand broad trends.

Locally, Birds Connect Seattle coordinates seasonal counts each January and June. We started surveying in 2018, and have gradually expanded our efforts. Just this year, we added six new survey sites and are now surveying across our entire service area from Shoreline to Burien and Renton.

We focus on two species: the Red-breasted Nuthatch and the Spotted Towhee. The nuthatch's reliance on conifer forests makes it especially vulnerable to habitat loss and shifts in food supply, which are also altering its migration patterns. The Spotted Towhee, while somewhat more adaptable, still faces threats from shrinking habitat and may lose up to 55% of its current range.

While these species are our focus, 141 Washington species have been identified as highly or moderately vulnerable. Without action, some could disappear from our state entirely. The most effective way to protect birds is through carbon reduction—reforesting, advancing clean technology, and reducing emissions.

Young Birders and Community Science

Beyond birding for pleasure to birding with a purpose

by Ser Anderson, Conservation Program Assistant

From Christmas Bird Count to Climate Watch and even just keeping eBird lists, the Young Birders program gives teens opportunities to put their birding knowledge to use by participating in community science projects.

The Young Birders group has adopted the Climate Watch survey sites at Washington Park Arboretum and completes point counts every winter and early summer and joins the Christmas Bird Count efforts every year at Discovery Park. We also use our monthly meetings and other field experiences to learn about additional community science surveys including Project Phoenix, the Puget Sound Seabird Survey, the Seattle Bird

Collision Monitoring Project, and Woodland Park Zoo's Living Northwest Conservation Program.

Community science provides teens with real-world data collection experience and a taste of what a career in ornithology or another science might be like. It also provides an opportunity to give back to the species they love, and build connections to the larger birding community. Because of data collection, Young Birders outings have an added dimension that will hopefully lead to lifelong engagement with birding and conservation.



Young Birders participate in Climate Watch



Birders at Magnuson Park | Sarah Hankins

Neighborhood Bird Project 30th Anniversary

Data suggest more than half of local bird species could be declining

by Joshua Morris, Conservation Director

Multiple recent assessments, including “The State of the Birds 2025,” have documented troubling declines in North American bird populations. But how are birds faring here in Seattle?

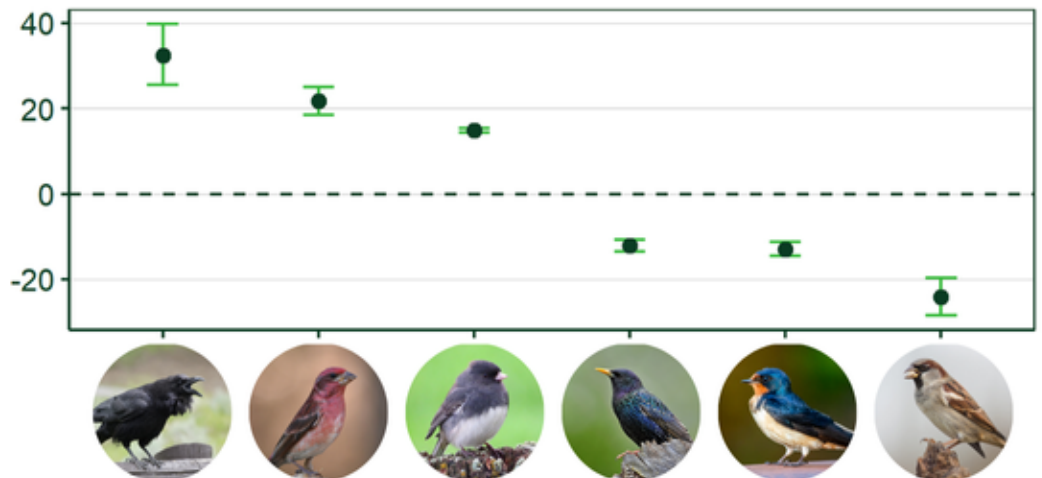
Thanks to the long-term commitment of Neighborhood Bird Project volunteers, we have a unique dataset to help answer that question. Over the past three decades, hundreds of volunteers have conducted more than 24,000 surveys, counting nearly half a million birds in Seattle-area greenspaces.

The Birds Connect Seattle Science and Conservation Committees have been analyzing this dataset for insights into local bird occurrence dynamics. In one analysis, we modeled count trends for 112 species observed from 2005 to 2023. Preliminary results suggest that counts are declining for 61 species (54.5%) and stable or increasing for 51 species (44.5%).

We see steep declines in both native and non-native species. Among non-natives, House Sparrows and European Starlings declined by 24% and 12% per year, respectively. Counts for native aerial insectivores Cliff Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Vaux’s Swifts all declined by an average of 13% per year. Species with increasing counts are all native to Western Washington, including Common Ravens (+32% per year), Purple Finches (+22% per year), and Dark-eyed Juncos (+15% per year).

We must interpret these results cautiously. Many unmeasured and uncontrolled factors can influence counts including observer ability, weather, human activity, and habitat changes. We continue to review our results and refine our approach. Birds Connect Seattle will publish a detailed report this summer.

Annual Percent (%) Change Per Species



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From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

Science is a core value at Birds Connect Seattle. It grounds our work, helping us prioritize and tackle the most pressing conservation challenges facing people and birds today. Whether it's understanding the effects of urban development or tracking bird population trends, science guides our every step.

This issue highlights the power of one of our (really, your) specialties—community science. Passionate volunteers and professionals come together to generate real-world data that drives real-world solutions.

I hope you enjoy this deep dive into the science behind our mission and the many ways it is benefiting birds and our community.



In gratitude,

Claire Catania

Claire Catania
 Executive Director



Visit the
 New Mural by
 Tori Shao

Grand Opening Week: July 23-27

It is with great excitement we invite you, our loyal members, to visit our new nest during our Grand Opening Week and beyond. Birds Connect Seattle's new headquarters will be a vibrant hub for visitors to learn about birds, shop for nature-themed gifts and binoculars, and participate in conservation action.

- July 23: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- July 23-27: Grand Opening Week activities
- Every Wednesday, beginning July 23: Birds of Seattle lunchtime talk
- August 7: Optics Demonstration Night with special member discount

Learn more about our opening events and the new space.



Birds Connect Seattle will be open Wednesday-Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with weekly programming. Come by to learn, shop, and be curious about birds!