

**Rocky Point Bird Observatory**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**First Unitarian Church of Victoria**

March 13, 2019

7:00 - 8:00 pm

- 1) Approval of the Agenda. Daniel Donnecke moved approval of the Agenda, Alison Moran seconded. CARRIED.
- 2) Approval of the 2018 AGM Minutes. Moved by Jannaca Chick, seconded by Ann Nightingale. CARRIED.
- 3) President's Report by Kim Beardmore
  - a) **The Staff for 2018:**
    - i) MAPS Bander: Wallis Moore Reid
    - ii) Fall Migration: David Bell (BIC), Siobhan Darlington, Blair Dudeck, and Donna Taluto
    - iii) Owl Banders: Katie McCreesh and Rebecca Golat
    - iv) Lead Education: Andrea Neumann
    - v) Development Director: Gaylia Lassner
    - vi) Administrative Assistant: Jemma Green

b) **MAPS 2018** May 31 – August 7 (Jo Motek)

This was our 8<sup>th</sup> field season at Madrona Farm and 10<sup>th</sup> at Witty's Lagoon.

459 birds of 30 species were banded at Madrona Farm along with 94 recaptures. The most common birds banded there were Anna's Hummingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler and Spotted Towhee. The most notable recapture was an 8 year old Orange-crowned Warbler. It was our best season to date at Madrona.

At Witty's Lagoon we banded a total of 264 birds of 27 species with 56 recaptures. The most common species banded were Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Rufous Hummingbird, and Bewick's Wren. The highlights included two at least 7 year old Chestnut-backed Chickadees and a 5 year old Song Sparrow, recaptured 6 times throughout the season. It was an average year at Witty's Lagoon.

MAPS will continue at these locations in 2019.

- c) **Fall Migration** July 21 – October 18 (Andrew Harcombe)  
This was our 24<sup>th</sup> season at the Rocky Point site and our 7<sup>th</sup> year at Pedder Bay. There were 5,705 birds banded, and, 1,242 recaptures with a total of 73 species. A total of 283,014 birds of 207 species were observed at both stations. Some of the rarities banded were: Northern Parula, Dusky Flycatcher, American Redstart, Western Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Fall Migration will continue at these locations in 2019.

- d) **Nocturnal Owl Monitoring** September 15 – October 31 (Jo & Mike Motek)  
A total of 710 NSWOs were banded at 2 sites (Rocky Point and Pedder Bay). There were 66 recaptures of NSWOs. We banded the lowest percentage of hatch-year birds this season – 20%, as opposed to 60-90% on average. We banded 7 Barred Owls with 2 recaptures. There were 66 recaptures between our 2 sites. We had 8 “foreign” recaptures, birds banded at other stations, the most to date. Over the past 16 years of running this project, we have banded a total of 10,237 owls.

We have sufficient funds for all of our banding projects. These will be continued in 2019.

- e) **Hummingbird Project:** 2018 was another successful season for this project which has been running since 1997. Data was collected at 44 sites across BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. A total of 2,347 hummingbirds were banded along with 358 recaptures. Rufous Hummingbirds were the most numerous species caught (1041). Hummingbird urine was collected and has revealed contamination due to pesticide use in agricultural areas. The data is being analyzed by Alison Moran.
- f) **Seawatch:** 2018 was the third year of this project, which aims to gather baseline data on marine birds in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This is conducted at Beechy Head in East Sooke Park for a one hour period 30 minutes after sunrise. 38 counts were conducted for a yearly total of 47,881 birds of 80 species.

We are planning to expand this program to Race Rocks with the cooperation of Pearson College.

- g) **Education and Outreach**

Rocky Point aims to increase awareness of birds and local conservation issues through bird walks, field trips, school programs, presentations to various groups and outreach events.

- i) We had over 500 visitors to our Pedder Bay station. Bird walks at Outerbridge Park continue on the second Sunday of every month. During Fall

- Migration banding season we conducted bird walks at Pedder Bay twice weekly.
- ii) Our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Banding Workshop was led by Eric Demers from VIU in March 2018.
  - iii) World Migratory Bird Day returned to Beaver Lake Park in May 2018 with passerine and hummingbird banding demonstrations, bird walks, and a display of birds from Pacific Northwest Raptors.
  - iv) Andrea Neumann expanded our school program, attending 17 school break & camp events. She received the Braefoot Volunteer of the Year Award for her efforts. Presentations were given at Royal Roads University and Camosun College.
  - v) Alison Moran led Hummingbird Banding workshops in Soda Creek, BC and in Belize. The Hummingbird Project was featured in a six-session course at Royal Roads University.
  - vi) RPBO has partnered with Saanich Parks to offer beginner birding courses in the spring and the fall.
  - vii) More than 30 slide presentations were given to community groups.
  - viii) RPBO hosted the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network's biennial meeting in August, hosting 30 participants from across the country.
  - ix) In 2018 RPBO successfully held its second Christmas Bird Count for Kids. We will make this an annual event.
  - x) Other events included attending the Scouts Canada Beaveree, WildARC's Open House, Metchosin Day, and a CRD Parks event at Witty's Lagoon.
  - xi) RPBO has become an important resource for avian expertise, with interviews on CFX and CBC, articles in the Times-Colonist, Goldstream Gazette, Birdwatching Daily, and Seaside Magazine, and features on CTV News, CHEK TV, and Shaw Cable.
- h) **Volunteers:** Our volunteers provide help with site preparation, extraction, bird census, bird walks, banding, observations, education, net mending and governance. Special thanks to Ann Scarfe and Ashlea Veldhoen for running the volunteer coordination. We had 153 + volunteers who contributed over 9300 hours in 2018. The Hummingbird Project included over 3000 hours of volunteer time. Valued at \$20.00/hour, this represents \$240,000+ on our books which we use for our funding applications.
- i) **Local Conservation:** In special cases, RPBO may prepare input for various government agencies to help influence bird conservation practices on our public and private lands. For example we have advocated for bird conservation to the CRD, District of Central Saanich, Agricultural Land Commission, Minister of Agriculture. Special thanks to Michael Simmons and Ann Nightingale.

j) **Research:** Fox Sparrow migration paper was published in the *Auk* (Michael Simmons & Ann Nightingale); Fox Sparrow winter site fidelity paper was published in *British Columbia Birds* (Michael Simmons); Hummingbird exposure to agricultural pesticides – *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (Alison Moran).

k) **Future Plans:**

- Fund raising
- Rebuilding some of our infrastructure
- Expanding our membership
- Recruiting volunteers
- Collaboration with Pearson College
- MOTUS
- Brochure publications with RRU
- Volunteer training & qualification
- RPBO 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

4.) **Treasure's Report** (see attached)

Thank you to our donors and supporters for your considerable assistance over the year. This generous support, coupled with strong fund-raising efforts, has enabled us to end the year with an increase in total equity over the previous year. Note that the 2018 Treasure's Report statement shows: 1) Statement of Financial Positions 2) Statement of Revenues & Expenses 3) Financial Income & Expenses. Funds have been segregated into "Restricted" (by grants/donors or internally restricted) and "General", or unrestricted use (no specific allocation). In the Treasurer's Report we have separated funds into \$26,000.67 "General" and \$69,165 "Restricted" funds to better reflect the allocation of monies according to our funding agencies. The total amount of funds remaining as of December 31, 2018 was \$87,949.55

RPBO's "in kind" support includes what we would have spent for such things as mileage reimbursement, site rental, etc. The value of our volunteer labour is \$24,600!

RPBO Administration and Fundraising Expenses are about 18% of total expenses; RPBO projects are about 82% of total expenses

The breakdown of RPBO expenses is: Fall Migration salaries 55%, Research 14%, Education 12%, NSW0 program 11%, MAPS 7% and Hummingbirds 1%.

Our sponsors include: BC Nature, Bird Studies Canada, Capital Regional District, Colleges & Institutes Canada (CICAN), Department of National Defense, Environment & Climate Change Canada, Fig Deli, First Unitarian Church of Victoria, Glenrosa Farm Restaurant, Government of Canada: Canada Summer Jobs, Horne-Coupar LLP, [Islandnet.com](http://Islandnet.com), Joan Outerbridge Charitable Trust, Madrona Farm, Mountainview Biological Consulting

LLC, Pedder Bay RV Resort and Marina, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Royal Roads University, Sitka Foundation, Sobey's Group Inc (Thrifty Foods), The Hamber Foundation, United Way of Greater Victoria, UVIC Retirees Association, Vancity Savings Credit Union, Victoria Foundation, Victoria Natural History Society.

For details please see the 2018 Treasurer's Report.

Gail Harcombe moved for approval of the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Jane Styles.  
CARRIED.

## **5.) Approval of new Bylaws**

- We are now fully compliant with the new BC Societies Act.
- The number of board members will number from 9 – 15.
- Board members will serve a 2-year term. Next year half of the members will resign & be re-elected to get on to this cycle. Board members are allowed to serve 3 consecutive 2-year terms, then they must take 1 year off.
- Any meeting of the membership requires a quorum of 20 voting members.
- The four officers of the Board will be appointed at the first Board Meeting after the AGM.
- No one shall speak on behalf of RPBO without Board approval.

Ann Nightingale moved acceptance of the new Bylaws. Andrew Harcombe seconded.  
CARRIED.

## **6.) Election of Directors**

Jemma Green presented the slate of candidates to the AGM: Jennifer Armstrong, Kim Beardmore, Connel Bradwell, Jannaca Chick, John Costello, Daniel Donnecke, Gail Harcombe, Andrew Harcombe, Alison Moran, Ann Nightingale, Wallis Moore Reid, Mary Catherine Reader, Jill Robinson, Brian Starzomski, Ashley Veldhoen.

- i) Retiring Directors: Ann Scarfe, Christian Engelstoft, Warren Drinnan. A special thank you to Ann Scarfe who served on the board for many years as the Volunteer Coordinator.
- ii) Remaining Directors still standing: Kim Beardmore, Jannaca Chick, John Costello, Daniel Donnecke, Andrew Harcombe, Gail Harcombe, Alison Moran, Ann Nightingale, Wallis Moore Reid, Mary Catherine Reader, Jill Robinson
- iii) New Directors to the board: Connel Bradwell, Jennifer Armstrong, Ashley Veldhoen and Brian Starzomski

Approved by acclamation.

Call for Adjournment by Kim Beardmore at 8:00 pm. Approved.

Break, followed by Andrew Harcombe's presentation "Patagonia: Penguins, Parakeets and Pumas".