

Rocky Point Bird Observatory
Annual General Meeting
Rogers Society Community Centre

March 11, 2020

7:00 -7:45 pm

- 1) Approval of the Agenda. Daniel Donnecke moved to accept the Agenda, Ann Nightingale seconded. APPROVED.
- 2) Approval of the 2019 AGM Minutes. Moved by Jannaca Chick, seconded Robyn Byrne. APPROVED.
- 3) President's Report by Kim Beardmore
 - a) **The Staff for 2019:**
 - i) MAPS Bander: Donna Talluto
 - ii) Fall Migration: David Bell (BIC), Siobhan Darlington, and Donna Talluto
Migration Interns: Rebecca Golat and Ashlea Veldhoen
 - iii) Owl Banders: Jannaca Chick and Rebecca Golat
 - iv) Lead Education: Andrea Neumann
 - v) Development Director: Gaylia Lassner
 - vi) Administrative Assistant: Jemma Green
 - b) **MAPS 2019:** May 31 – August 5 (Jo Motek)
This was our 9th field season at Madrona Farm and 11th season at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park.

At Madrona Farm, 396 birds of 31 species were banded along with 78 recaptures. The most common birds banded there were Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird and House Finch. The most notable recapture was an Orange-crowned Warbler from 2013.

At Witty's Lagoon, a total of 249 birds of 27 species were banded along with 60 recaptures. The most common species banded were Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Rufous Hummingbird, and Bewick's Wren. The oldest recapture was a Song Sparrow, banded in 2015 as After Hatch Year.
 - c) **Fall Migration:** July 21 – October 18 (Andrew Harcombe)
This was our 25th season at the Rocky Point site and our 8th year at Pedder Bay. There were 7418 birds banded and 1584 recaptures with a total of 69 species. A

total of 224,052 birds of 203 species were observed at both stations. Some of the rarities banded were: a Brown Shrike, a Tennessee Warbler, a Nashville Warbler, an American Redstart, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler.

- d) **Nocturnal Owl Monitoring:** September 15 – October 31 (Jo & Mike Motek)
A total of 1064 NSWOs were banded at 2 sites (Rocky Point and Pedder Bay). There were 54 recaptures of NSWOs. 74% of these were Hatch Year Birds. We banded 14 Barred Owls with 1 recaptures. We had 3 “foreign” recaptures, birds banded at other stations – 1 from Cobble Hill, 1 from Mackenzie Bird Observatory, and 1 from Sherwood Park, Alberta. Over the past 17 years of running this project, we have banded a total of 10,653 owls.
- e) **Hummingbird Project:** 2019 was another successful season for this project which has been running since 1997. Data was collected at 37 sites across BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. A total of 2063 hummingbirds were banded of 5 different species including 1 hybrid Rufous and Calliope Hummingbird, along with 382 recaptures. Rufous Hummingbirds were the most numerous species caught (1063). During the season, in addition to all their usual monitoring activities, our teams collected faeces and urine for further eDNA studies into habitat use. Two of the teams collected nectar mites (the farthest north they have been found) for species identification. The data is being analyzed by Alison Moran. Alison Moran led a Hummingbird symposium in Chilliwack in May 2019 which was attended by hummingbird banders from across BC and Alberta. We published research on the diet of Rufous Hummingbird nestlings in the open source journal PeerJ (A J Moran et al. 2019).
- f) **Seawatch:** 2019 was the fourth 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. A yearly total of 28,817 birds of 79 species were counted. 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.
- 2019 was a strong year for Rocky Point Bird Observatory’s public education programs. We reached 1720 people through our school programs, field trips, and outreach events coordinated by our Lead Educator, Andrea Neumann. We also hosted 40 community group presentations, conducted a number of media interviews, and increased our visibility as a primary source for information about birds on Vancouver Island.
 - Bird walks at Outerbridge Park took place on the second Sunday of every month. During Fall Migration banding season we conducted bird walks at Pedder Bay twice weekly.

- Our 16th annual Banding Workshop was led by Eric Demers from VIU in March 2019.
 - World Migratory Bird Day was held at Beaver Lake Park in May 2019 with passerine and hummingbird banding demonstrations, bird walks, and a display of birds from Pacific Northwest Raptors.
 - This year we continued to offer classroom programs for elementary school classes. Our programs aim to take the concepts taught in the BC science curriculum, such as biodiversity and evolutionary adaptation, and apply them to local birds. All programs include a study of nest and replica egg specimens, but the highlight is when the kids get to leave their desks and head outside for a beginner birdwatching and binocular tutorial. This year, we partnered with Ecoquest summer camps to deliver modified classroom programs to nearly 100 summer campers aged 7-11.
 - Our fall migration station on the property of the Pedder Bay Resort and Marina continues to be an ideal location for field trip programs. 116 students participated in field trip programs to bird banding stations in 2019 (Pedder Bay Marina and Witty's Lagoon Regional Park). Many of the teachers have participated in our field trip program for 4-5 seasons. New this year, we also had a group of Scouts (boys and girls ages 7-11) visit our Pedder Bay nocturnal owl monitoring station.
 - RPBO partnered with Saanich Parks to offer beginning birding courses in the spring and the fall.
 - RPBO held its 25th Anniversary celebration on September 14th at Glenrosa Farm and the Pedder Bay banding station. We offered hourly bird walks, banding demonstrations, and cake for all.
 - In October, RPBO took part in a livestream event, "For The Birds", made possible by Sunset Labs, which highlighted our conservation and education work.
 - RPBO staff and volunteers attended many other public events throughout the year, including several Earth Day events, the Scouts Canada Beaverie, WildARC's Open House, Metchosin Day, and a CRD Parks event at Witty's Lagoon.
 - In December 2019, RPBO successfully held its third Christmas Bird Count for Kids at Beckwith Park in Saanich.
 - 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.
 - 40 presentations were given to community groups (from seniors' and veterans' groups to golf course superintendents) across the region.
 - Our social media has seen terrific growth in followers and content. Our posts reach thousands of people every month.
- 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 Ann Nightingale for running the volunteer

coordination. We had 160 + volunteers who contributed over 12,000 hours in 2019. The Hummingbird Project included over 3000 hours of volunteer time. Valued at \$20.00/hour, this represents \$300,000+ on our books which we use for 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) **Future Plans:**

- Fund raising
- Rebuilding some of our infrastructure
- Expanding our membership
- Recruiting volunteers
- Collaboration with Pearson College
- MOTUS
- Volunteer training & qualification

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. Funds have been segregated into "Restricted" (by grants/donors or internally restricted) and "General", or unrestricted use (no specific allocation). These separated funds (\$88,389 "General" and \$158,572 "Restricted") better reflect the allocation of monies according to our funding agencies.

An inventory of all our equipment was done this fall by Mark Byrne and Ann Nightingale in the amount of nearly \$69,000. This increases our official Net Assets to over \$275,000.

RPBO's "in kind" support includes what we would have spent for such things as mileage reimbursement, site rental, etc. (anything that RPBO does not pay for). The value of our volunteer labour is \$302,702!

The breakdown of RPBO's project costs is: Migration 62%, Education and Outreach 17%, Owl Monitoring 10%, MAPS 3%, and Research 1%.

Our sponsors include: BC Federation of Naturalists, BC Naturalists' Foundation, BCLC Community Gaming Grants, Bird Studies Canada, Capital Regional District, Colleges & Institutes Canada (CICAN), Department of National Defense, Environment & Climate Change Canada, FortisBC, Global Giving Foundation, IslandNet.com, Joan Outerbridge

Charitable Foundation, Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation, Madrona Farm, Mountainview Biological Consulting LLC, Oak Bay Marine Group, Pedder Bay Marina & RV Resort, Paypal Giving Fund Canada, Peninsula Co-op, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Royal Roads University, Sobeys Group (Thrifty Foods), TD Friends of the Environment Fund, The Benevity Community Impact Fund, Uplands Foundation, Vancity Community Foundation, GVSCU Legacy Fund, Victoria Foundation, Victoria Natural History Society.

For details please see the 2019 Financial Report.

Gail Harcombe moved for acceptance of the Financial Report. Seconded by Kim Beardmore. APPROVED.

6.) Election of Directors

The following people were nominated to the Board by Kim Beardmore, seconded by Cathy Reader: Mark Byrne, Robyn Byrne, Jannaca Chick, Eric Demers, Todd Golumbia, Andrew Harcombe, Ann Nightingale.

- i) Directors Leaving: Wallis Moore Reid, Jill Robinson, Brian Starzomski and Ashley Veldhoen. Thank you for your work!
- ii) Remaining Directors still standing: Jennifer Armstrong, Kim Beardmore, Connel Bradwell, John Costello, Daniel Donnecke, Gail Harcombe, Alison Moran, Cathy Reader.

Approved by acclamation.

Call for Adjournment by Kim Beardmore at 7:45 pm. Approved.

Break, followed by Jannaca Chick's presentation "From Eilat to Antikythera: Bird Banding in Israel and Greece".