



# RPBO Annual General Meeting

## Minutes

April 7, 2022  
7:00 pm – 7:40 pm  
Via Zoom

In attendance: Quorum achieved

### 1. Approve Agenda

Andrew Harcombe moved approval of the revised agenda. Jannaca Chick seconded. Carried.

### 2. Minutes from AGM 2021

Kim Beardmore moved approval of 2021 AGM minutes. Ann Nightingale seconded. Carried.

### 3. President's Report by Jennifer Armstrong

See page 2.

### 4. Treasurers Report by Gail Harcombe

Presented summary of 2021 financials (see page 6).

Gail Harcombe moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Jennifer Armstrong. Carried.

### 5. Election of Directors

Todd Golumbia and Michael Newman are not running again. The following individuals were up for re-election: Mark Byrne, Robyn Byrne, Jannaca Chick, Eric Demers, Andrew Harcombe, Julie Howe, Ann Nightingale. Nominated by Kim Beardmore, seconded by Cathy Reader. Approved by acclamation.

### 6. Adjournment

Moved by Jennifer Armstrong



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## President's Report by Jennifer Armstrong

### a) 2021 Board of Directors

Jennifer Armstrong	President
Jannaca Chick	Vice President
Gail Harcombe	Treasurer
Andrew Harcombe	Secretary
Kim Beardmore	Past President
Mark Byrne	Operations Coord/ DND Liaison
Robyn Byrne	Volunteer Coordinator
Eric Demers	Director-at-large
Daniel Donnecke	Science Advisory Committee Chair
Todd Golumbia	Director-at-large
Julie Howe	Education
Alison Moran	Hummingbird Project
Michael Newman	Director-at-large
Ann Nightingale	Migration Coordinator
Cathy Reader	MAPS Coordinator

### b) Directors leaving the Board

This year we have two Directors who leave the Board tonight. Michael Newman and Todd Golumbia. Thank you both for your contributions and insight!

### c) 2021 Staff

Administrator Leesa Watson

Development Director Gaylia Lassner

#### BANDERS

Migration BIC	David Bell
Migration	Rebecca Golat
Migration	Samuelle Simard-Provençal
Intern	Rebecca Reader-Lee
Intern	Liam Singh
Owls	Jannaca Chick
Owls	Megan Buers
MAPS	Jannaca Chick

### d) MAPS Project

Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship

- May 31 to August 5
- 7 banding sessions once in each 10-day period
- Witty's Lagoon Regional Park *13th year*
- Power To Be site at Prospect Lake *new!*

Species diversity was lower at Witty's than in previous years; overall captures were 6.6% lower than in 2020



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## Banded Birds of MAPS

### WITTY'S LAGOON

277 new birds  
(24 species)  
84 recaptures  
(10 species)  
Busiest Day  
68 new + 11 recaps  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Song Sparrow

### POWER TO BE

141 new birds  
(25 species)  
27 recaptures  
(9 species)  
Busiest Day  
33 new + 4 recaps  
Brown Creeper  
Song Sparrow  
American Robin

## e) MIGRATION Project

Monitoring annual populations of migratory landbirds

- July 21 to October 18 (90 Days)
- contribute to the efforts of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN)
- Rocky Point site (*DND property, restricted access*)
- Pedder Bay site (*Pedder Bay Marina, public*)
- 27th year at Rocky Point
- 10th year at Pedder Bay
- **total # of birds banded was down in 2021 compared to 2020, at both stations**

### Passerine Fall Migration

Most Banded  
Record High Bandings  
1st Banding Records

### Rocky Point

Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
15 species  
Orchard Oriole  
Band-tailed Pigeon  
**3576 of 63 species**

### Pedder Bay

Fox Sparrow  
8 species  
Tennessee Warbler  
**2,987 of 60 species**

Total # Banded  
Total # Recaptures  
MISSING!

**643 of 37 species**  
Hutton's Vireo

**745 of 35 species**  
Myrtle Warbler  
Pine Siskin  
Cassin's Vireo

## f) NOCTURNAL OWL MONITORING Project

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

Monitoring of owl movement through the most southerly point of Vancouver Island each year since 2002, except 2007.

- 19th year at Rocky Point
- 8th year at Pedder Bay
- 1225 owls banded + 65 recaps (combined for both stations)

Grand Total to Date: 12,679 banded NSWO



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## Observed:

- Great Horned Owl
- Western Screech-Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl

## Banded:

- Barred Owl
- Barn Owl → 1st
- Long-eared Owl\*\*

\*\* 2020 Pilot Study terminated for insufficient data

## g) MOTUS Project #434

Studying the routes and destinations of migrating owls around coastal BC

- pilot project with Northern Saw-whet Owls
- collaboration with Vancouver Island University & Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory
- 38 NSWOW were tagged last season
- 8 in Nanaimo (VIU), 21 in Metchosin (RPBO), and 9 at Tatlayoko Lake (TLBO)

Migratory routes and destination for these birds remain poorly understood due to low recapture success

## h) HUMMINGBIRD Project

- 14 sites
- published data on exposure of hummingbirds to neonicotinoid agricultural pesticides in BC and SK
- Birds Banded:
  - 503 Calliope Hummingbird
  - 385 Rufous Hummingbird
  - 140 Anna's Hummingbird
  - 26 Black-chinned Hummingbird

## i) SEAWATCH Project

Gathering baseline data on marine birds in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, 12 months of the year

- 6th season (2nd with "Hour Two" Protocol)
- primary location off Beechey Head
- survey once a week, for 1 hour 30 mins after sunrise
- 39,359 seabirds birds of 59 species
- Most numerous DUCK: Surf Scoter
- Most numerous SEABIRD: Common Murre

## j) COVID-19 Pandemic (again)

RPBO met or exceeded all regulations and guidelines set out by Health Authorities. Well done everyone!

Safety of our personnel is our first priority. Protocols included:

- Physical distancing
- Masks
- Handwashing
- Sanitizing (hands, equipment, etc.)
- Any symptoms = stay-at-home day

## k) EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Our goal is to increase awareness of birds and local conservation issues



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- public bird walks (Outerbridge, Pedder Bay)
- Special Events / Guest Speakers
- Bird Babble Podcast
- school field trips and programs
- Zoom Series online presentations
- outreach events to community groups, garden clubs and seniors' residences

### **I) OUR VOLUNTEERS**

During the 2021 season, our Volunteers outdid themselves! We are so grateful for your support!!

- SEAWATCH            16 volunteers 58 hours
- HUMMINGBIRDS    5 volunteers 853 hours
- PASSERINES        115 volunteers 5504 hours
- OWLS                63 volunteers 1850 hours
- MAPS Witty's       33 volunteers 385 hours
- MAPS PTB           26 volunteers 286 hours

8936 hrs in the field and 2000+ hrs behind the scenes

### **m) MEMBERSHIP**

Rewards & Benefits

- Meet others passionate about birds
- Participate in RPBO activities
- Training from Qualified Banders (*banding techniques, bird ID, monitoring practices*)
- Discount on special courses
- BC Nature magazine

Support the work of RPBO and become a partner in the conservation of birds

### **n) THANK YOU!**

Members, Volunteers, Staff, Donors & supporters

- Hard-working
- Knowledgeable
- Dedicated

Looking forward to the successes in 2022!



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### Treasurer's Report by Gail Harcombe

As Treasurer of Rocky Point, I get the pleasure of presenting the 2021 Year-end Financial Report for Rocky Point Bird Observatory Society. I want to begin by thanking all of you for your amazing support. You helped us increase knowledge of birds and awareness of the need for conservation of birds and their habitats. THANK YOU!

Members were all been given the opportunity to review both the Financial Statement and our annual report prior to the meeting. These two reports give us different ways to look at our financial health. Both give us a picture of our assets as of 31 Dec 2021 and the changes in income and expenses for the year, so I am just going to talk about a few highlights rather than going over either of the reports page by page.

#### **1) Our financial position at the end of 2021 was healthy, with net assets (equity) of \$260,847.**

- **Term deposits** include short-term investments (bank term deposits) and the market value of the RPBO Endowment Fund managed by the Victoria Foundation.  
We include the market value of the **Endowment fund (\$61,762) as an asset** because when the Fund was established, the intent was that each year, a percentage of the annual earnings of the Fund will be available to RPBO to be used to support ornithological studies and activities, stimulate interest in birds and bird studies among young people and students, and help RPBO pursue other activities beyond the normal operations which would otherwise be beyond the means of the organization. RPBO hopes to increase the capital of the Fund over time, which will in turn, increase the annual disbursements.
- The **General Fund (13,096) is unrestricted** – these funds are available to us for administration and overhead like insurance, and unexpected expenses. **As a non-profit, it is important for us to do our best to keep our unrestricted funds at or below 20% of our total equity.**
- The **Project Fund (\$185,989)** is comprised of **externally restricted funds** (use specified by the granting agency or donor) and **internally restricted funds** (use specified by the Board of Directors). The Project Fund is for expenses such as salaries, equipment, research, education and outreach program costs.
- **Externally restricted funds** include grants and donations received in 2021 specified for use in 2022, and the balance remaining of grants and specified donations received in and prior to 2021. The internally restricted funds are restricted for project expenses in 2021 or later years.

#### **2) Changes in Net Assets are a record of what happened during 2021 and do not include any carry over funds. It shows only what we received and spent in that one year.**

2019	\$6429
2020	\$20,096
2021	\$37,816

Something to keep in mind when comparing revenues between years is that some years – including 2021 – we receive grants very late in the year. They needed to be recorded in the year they were received, but the funds were for use in 2022.

#### **CHANGES IN INCOME: The best news!! Donations and membership almost doubled in 2021 over 2020!**

*In-kind support is a significant proportion of our income, showing strong community support, which is increasingly important to granting agencies.*



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- **In-kind goods/services/mileage reimbursement** includes contribution of mileage reimbursement and donation of the cost of goods and services such as website hosting. Tax receipts are issued for these donations.
- **Volunteer labour – The amazing people who volunteered with RPBO contributed more than over \$200,000 worth of hours! Thank you to all of you!**

### EXPENSES

- Project expenses include all our projects, with our monitoring projects the main expense.
- The increase in administrative and fundraising expenses was due to the hiring of additional contract staff, as well as increases in many areas, such as the cost of insurance, and upgrading our communications and financial software.
- Project expenses worked out approximately 80% of total expenses and admin and fundraising at around 20% of the total cash expenditures, similar to previous years.

### 3) So...Where does our funding come from?

Our 2021 Revenue Sources

- **Grants (23%)** include federal and provincial grants, foundations, trusts, businesses, other registered charities, and federated campaigns, among them:
  - BC Lottery Corporation
  - Birds Canada
  - Blennerhassett Family Foundation
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada
  - ECO Canada
  - Public Conservation Assistance Fund (PCAF)
  - Victoria Natural History Society
  - Victoria Foundation
- **Donations/membership (9%) and in-kind support (59%)**
  - Donors have been very generous, with more than 20 individuals donating between \$500 and \$5000 in funds and/or volunteer labour.
  - In kind donations **make up nearly 60% of our revenue!**
  - We are also fortunate to have an increasing number of monthly donors, which is very helpful in our financial planning
- **Fundraising, sales of goods and services (7%)** and other include revenues from surveys, course registrations, sales of Art Bird Cards – get yours from our website if you haven't already got both sets!! - garage sales, and cash donations under \$20.
- **Interest and endowment income** (bank interest and annual disbursements)

### 4) How do we spend our funds?

Our 2021 expenses are divided into projects, administration/fundraising expenses, and in-kind expenses.

Almost all in-kind expenses were applicable to projects, so when those are included, project expenses account for over 90%!

**PROJECT COSTS were \$113,188**, with project expenses at approximately 80% of our total **cash** expenditures.



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- **Fall migration** – our 3 months of daily songbird monitoring – is by far the biggest portion of the costs (58%)
- **Owl** monitoring comes in second at 13%
- **Education and Outreach** are third at about 11% - down a bit from last year, which is not surprising as we had fewer events and activities in 2021.
- Our new **MOTUS** project came in fourth, with the funds going toward equipment and supplies for tracking Northern Saw-whet Owls.
- Costs for **Research** (6%) included lab analyses for the Hummingbird Project, funding for a Long-eared Owl project and the initial steps in a plan for MOTUS projects.
- **MAPS** is 3% (virtually all of it contractor fees for our bander and the final report). But don't let the fact that our MAPS project comes in last fool you - the value of the data collected is hugely valuable.

### **In Summary**

2021 presented its own unique challenges for RPBO, but the strong community support and hard work by the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers enabled us to complete projects on time and on budget, ending the year in a good financial position.

### **Looking ahead:**

We will continue actively seeking funding from a variety of sources – no amount too small! – and hope to finish 2022 in a similarly healthy financial position.