

**Rocky Point Bird Observatory**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Zoom Presentation**

**DRAFT**

March 11, 2021

7:10 -7:55 pm

- 1) Approval of the Agenda. Andrew Harcombe moved to accept the Agenda, seconded by Jannaca Chick. Motion carried. APPROVED.
- 2) Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes. Moved by Alison Moran, seconded by Ann Nightingale. Motion carried. APPROVED.
- 3) President's Report by Kim Beardmore

In 2020 RPBO was faced with the challenge of COVID-19 and how to safely carry out our various projects and operations. A small team of volunteers, in consultation with our banders, developed COVID-19 safety protocols that met or exceeded all Federal, Provincial and Health Authority regulations and guidelines. Due to the hard work and support of the Board of Directors, staff and all of our volunteers, we were able to complete all of our projects on budget.

a) **Board of Directors:**

Kim Beardmore	President
Jennifer Armstrong	Vice President
Gail Harcombe	Treasurer
Jannaca Chick	Secretary
Andrew Harcombe	Past President / Migration
Connel Bradwell	Education
Mark Byrne	Equipment & Stores
Robyn Byrne	At large
John Costello	Facilities Maintenance
Eric Demers	At large
Daniel Donnecke	Science
Todd Golumbia	At large
Alison Moran	Hummingbirds
Ann Nightingale	Volunteer Coordinator
Cathy Reader	MAPS Coordinator

Connel Bradwell and John Costello have decided to leave the board. Thank you for your great work!

b) **The Staff for 2020:**

- i) MAPS Bander: Jannaca Chick
- ii) Fall Migration: David Bell (BIC), Donna Talluto, Rebecca Golat and Emma Radziul
- iii) Owl Banders: Jannaca Chick and Nicole Richardson
- iv) Lead Educator: Andrea Neumann
- v) Development Director: Gaylia Lassner
- vi) Administrative Assistant: Jemma Green
- vii) Executive Director: Kathleen Burton

Kathleen Burton was hired as our Executive Director in the fall of 2020. Andrea Neumann and Jemma Green both left their positions with RPBO towards the end of 2020. We thank them for their excellent work and wish them well.

c) **MAPS 2020:** May 31 – August 1 (Cathy Reader)

This was our 12<sup>th</sup> season at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park. Madrona Farm was closed to us due to COVID-19 concerns. We will have a second site for our MAPS banding project in 2021.

At Witty's Lagoon, a total of 298 birds of 30 species were banded along with 84 recaptures. The most common species banded were Rufous Hummingbird, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Bewick's Wren. The oldest recapture was a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, banded in 2015 as After Hatch Year, making her at least 6 years old.

d) **Fall Migration:** July 21 – October 18 (Andrew Harcombe)

This was our 26<sup>th</sup> season at the Rocky Point site and our 9<sup>th</sup> year at Pedder Bay Marina. A total of 6881 birds of 67 species were banded, along with 1231 recaptures. The most commonly banded species were Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Pacific-slope Flycatcher. A total of 313,036,052 birds of 192 species were observed at both stations. Some of the rarities banded were: Gray Catbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red Crossbill, American Redstart, and Dusky Flycatcher.

e) **Nocturnal Owl Monitoring:** September 15 – October 31 (Jo & Mike Motek)

A total of 801 NSWOs were banded at 2 sites (Rocky Point and Pedder Bay). There were 58 recaptures. 55% of owls banded were Hatch Year Birds. We banded 8 Barred Owls with 2 recaptures. We had 1 "foreign" recapture this year from Cobble Hill (Andy Stewart). Two owls banded at Rocky Point in 2020 were recaptured on Bainbridge Island, WA (Jamie Acker). We ran a Long-eared Owl capture trial over 6 nights during the season, and banded a total of 3 LEOWs, a record for RPBO. Over

the past 18 years of running this project, we have banded a total of 11,454 NSW.

- f) **Hummingbird Project:** This project has been running since 1997. Due to COVID-19, our Hummingbird banding in 2020 was much reduced both in terms of geography and scope. Some data was collected at sites in BC and Alberta. A total of 570 hummingbirds were banded of 4 different species along with 121 recaptures. Highlights were 2 hybrids captured in the interior: a Rufous x Calliope Hummingbird, and a Black-chinned x Rufous Hummingbird.
- g) **Seawatch:** 2020 was the fifth 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 30 minutes after sunrise, previously for a one hour period. This year an “Hour Two” was added. A total of 68,889 birds of 90 species were counted in 2020. The most numerous species was California Gull.
- h) **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.
- 2020 was a challenging year for Rocky Point Bird Observatory’s public education programs due to the constraints of COVID-19.
  - RPBO gave 69 Zoom presentations in 2020 on various bird-related topics. Attendance averaged more than 40 people and often 70+. Through these Zoom presentations, RPBO reached many new people not only on Vancouver Island and in BC, but also in the rest of Canada, the United States, and Europe.
  - World Migratory Bird Day was held online in May 2020 by our Lead Educator Andrea Newman.
  - This year Robyn and Mark Byrne launched the Bird Babble podcast. They have broadcast 15 episodes to date and have had over 1300 downloads.
  - RPBO conducted walks at Outerbridge Park in Saanich during those months when COVID-19 provincial protocols were less restrictive. We conducted the twice weekly bird walks at Pedder Bay Marina during the Migration banding season.
  - In December 2020, RPBO held its fourth Christmas Bird Count for Kids with an online presentation through Facebook and Zoom, held by our Executive Director, Kathleen Burton.
  - Southwestern BC Art Bird Cards were created in collaboration with the Metchosin Foundation, the Metchosin ArtPod and RPBO. Local artists created the bird images and RPBO supplied the descriptions for each species.
  - Near the end of the banding season, we organized 8 public visits to our Pedder Bay station through ticketed programs with limited numbers, and adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols.
  - RPBO continued to be a resource for local media, especially with an increased interest by the public in birds during the pandemic. RPBO's expertise was frequently sought by both electronic and print media.

- Several presentations were given to community groups across the region via Zoom.
  - Our social media has seen terrific growth in followers and content. Our posts reach thousands of people every month.
- i) **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 107+ volunteers who contributed over 8300 hours in 2020. Additionally, project leaders and Board members gave more than 2300 hours of their time. Valued at \$20.00/hour, this represents \$222,800+ on our books which we use for funding applications.

#### 4.) **Treasurer'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 2019. We ended the year in a financially healthy position.

RPBO funds have been segregated into "Restricted" (by grants/donors or internally restricted) and "General", or unrestricted use (no specific allocation). These separated funds (\$30,390 "General" and \$195,669 "Restricted") better reflect the allocation of monies according to our funding agencies. Our Current Assets total \$226,059.

Donations and memberships in 2020 were almost double that of 2019.

RPBO's "in kind" support includes what we would have spent for such things as mileage reimbursement, site rental, volunteer labour, etc. The value of our volunteer labour is \$222,800.

The breakdown of RPBO's project costs is: Migration 74%, Education and Outreach 12%, Owl Monitoring 15%, and MAPS 2%. The expenses for Research, Seawatch, and the Hummingbird Project were negligible this year.

The following organizations have provided grants, made generous donations, or provided in-kind support in 2020: Anonymous Foundation, BCLC Community Gaming Grants, Birds Canada, Department of National Defense, Environment & Climate Change Canada, IslandNet.com, Nature Canada, Oak Bay Marine Group, Pedder Bay Marina & RV Resort, Paypal Giving Fund Canada, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Sobeys Group (Thrifty Foods), Takla Foundation, The Benevity Community Impact Fund, Victoria Foundation, Victoria Natural History Society.

For details, please see the 2020 Financial Report.

Gail Harcombe moved for acceptance of the Financial Report. Seconded by Daniel Donnecke. Motion carried. APPROVED.

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

The board has a maximum of 15 Directors, 8 of those positions need to be filled. The following people were nominated to the Board by Andrew Harcombe, and seconded by Jannaca Chick:

Jennifer Armstrong, Kim Beardmore, Daniel Donnecke, Gail Harcombe, Kristine Heilmann, Alison Moran, Michael Newman, Cathy Reader.

- i) Directors leaving: John Costello, Connel Bradwell.
- ii) Remaining Directors still standing: Mark Byrne, Robyn Byrne, Jannaca Chick, Eric Demers, Todd Golumbia, Andrew Harcombe, Ann Nightingale.

Approved by acclamation.

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

Break, followed by Andrew Harcombe's presentation "Eastern Arctic: A Voyage of Natural History and Culture".