



RPBO Annual General Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2023
7:13 pm – 7:45 pm

In attendance: Quorum achieved

1. Approve Agenda

Rosa Munzer moved approval of the revised agenda. Robyn Byrne seconded. Carried.

2. Minutes from AGM 2022

Jannaca Chick moved approval of 2022 AGM minutes. Kim Beardmore seconded. Carried.

3. President's Report by Jennifer Armstrong

See Google Drive AGM 2023.

4. Treasurer's Report by Gail Harcombe

Presented summary of 2022 financials.

Gail Harcombe moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Ann Nightingale. Carried.

5. Election of Directors

Kim Beardmore and Alison Moran are leaving the Board. The following individuals were up for re-election: Jennifer Armstrong, Terry Bird, Daniel Donnecke, Gail Harcombe, Rosa Munzer, Liam Ragan, and Cathy Reader. Nominated by Jannaca Chick, seconded by Andrew Harcombe. Approved by acclamation.

6. Adjournment

Moved by Jennifer Armstrong at 7:45 pm



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President's Report by Jennifer Armstrong

a) 2022 Board of Directors

Executive:

Jennifer Armstrong - *President*

Jannaca Chick - *Vice President*

Andrew Harcombe - *Secretary*

Gail Harcombe - *Treasurer*

Kim Beardmore - *Past President*

Directors:

Terry Bird

Mark Byrne

Robyn Byrne

Daniel Donnecke

Julie Howe

Alison Moran

Rosa Munzer

Ann Nightingale

Liam Ragan

Cathy Reader

Staff:

Gaylia Lassner - *Development Director*

Leesa Watson - *Administrator*

Caitlin Acquero - *Lead Educator*

b) Directors leaving the Board

This year we have two Directors who leave the Board tonight. Kim Beardmore and Alison Moran. Thank you both for your contributions and insight!

BANDERS

Fall Migration

Ann Nightingale - *Project Coordinator*

David Bell - *Bander in Charge*

Siobhan Darlington - *Bander*

Julian Powers - *Bander*

Emma Radzuil - *Bander*

Ashlea Veldhoen - *Bander*

Sonja Futehalley - *Intern*



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Evan Lewis - *Intern*
Aiva Noringseth - *Intern*

Nocturnal Owl Monitoring

Mike Motek - *Project Coordinator*
Jannaca Chick - *Bander*
Emily Hood - *Bander*

MAPS

Cathy Reader - *Project Coordinator*
Jannaca Chick - *Bander*

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

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

Rocky Point

Pedder Bay



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Most Banded	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Fox Sparrow
Record High Bandings	15 species	8 species
1st Banding Records	Orchard Oriole	Tennessee Warbler
	Band-tailed Pigeon	
	3576 of 63 species	2,987 of 60 species
Total # Banded		
Total # Recaptures	643 of 37 species	745 of 35 species
MISSING!	Hutton's Vireo	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

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 NSWO 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



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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

- 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

l) 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



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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 2022 Year-end Financial Report

Copies of the Financial Report and our annual report are available on request.

Thank you to 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!

Our financial position at the end of 2022 was healthy, with net assets (equity) of \$205,425.

- 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 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 our operations, 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 would in turn, increase the annual disbursements.
- The General fund is unrestricted – these funds are available to us for administration and overhead like insurance, and unexpected expenses.
- The Projects Fund 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 2022 and the carried over balance of grants and specified donations received prior to 2022. The internally restricted funds are restricted for project expenses in 2022 or later years.*

Things to note when comparing 2022 to the previous year:

- We received funds in 2021 for use in 2022 – the second year of 2-year agreements for some grants.
- Although term deposits (bank deposits) increased in value due to interest earned, the market value of the Endowment fund dropped due to fluctuations in the investment market, resulting in a decrease overall in the term deposits assets.

Where does our funding come from?

2022 Revenue Sources

- Grants include federal and provincial grants, foundations, trusts, businesses, other registered charities, and federated campaigns, among them:
 - BC Lottery Corporation
 - Birds Canada
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - Victoria Natural History Society
 - Victoria Foundation
- Donations/membership and in-kind support
 - In kind donations make up more than 70% of our revenue!



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- Donors continue to be very generous, and we are fortunate to have an increasing number of monthly donors, which is very helpful in our financial planning.
- Fundraising, sales of goods and services and other include revenues from surveys, course registrations, sales of Art Bird Cards, garage sales, and cash donations under \$20.

How do we spend our funds?

Our 2022 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 \$128,211, with project expenses approximately 80% of our total cash expenditures.

- Fall migration – our 3 months of daily songbird monitoring – is by far the biggest portion of the costs (50%)
- Education and Outreach - at about 21% - up a bit from last year since we were successful in hiring a Lead Educator and were able to hold more events and activities.
- Our MOTUS project came in third, with the funds going toward equipment and supplies for tagging and tracking Northern Saw-whet Owls.
- Nocturnal Owl Monitoring comes in fourth at 11%
- 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

Strong community support and hard work by the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers enabled us to complete projects on time and on budget. Revenues were higher than forecast and expenses somewhat lower, resulting in RPBO ending the year in a financially healthy 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.