



# RPBO 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2024 at 7pm

**Attendance:** Quorum achieved; 51 attended in person  
Minutes Taken by Jannaca Chick, Secretary

1. Meeting brought to order at 7:13pm

2. Approve Agenda for AGM 2024

Robyn Byrne moved approval of the agenda. Kim Beardmore seconded. All in favour. Carried.

3. Approve Minutes from AGM 2023

Jannaca Chick moved approval of 2023 AGM minutes. Gail Harcombe seconded. All in favour. Carried.

4. President's Report given by Rosa Munzer, Vice President on behalf of Andrew Harcombe.

Copy of the President's Report is attached below (Appendix A)

5. Treasurer's Report by Gail Harcombe

Presented summary of 2023 financials. Copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached below (Appendix B). The Report is available to the public upon request.

Gail Harcombe moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Daniel Donneck. All in favour. Carried.

6. Election of Directors

Julie Howe is leaving the Board. The following individuals were up for re-election: Mark Byrne, Robyn Byrne, Jannaca Chick, Andrew Harcombe, and Ann Nightingale. A nomination for Simone Littledale as a board member was put forward. Nominations by Rosa Munzer, seconded by Gail Harcombe. Approved by acclamation.

7. Adjournment

Moved by Rosa Munzer at 7:45 pm. All in favour. Adjourned.

8. Break - 15 minutes

9. Presentation by Ann Nightingale "Look What You Made Us Do - 30 Years of RPBO"



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## **Appendix A President's Report**

Given by Rosa Munzer, Vice President on behalf of Andrew Harcome, President

### **a) 2023 Board of Directors**

#### **Executive:**

Andrew Harcombe - *President*

Rosa Munzer - *Vice President*

Jannaca Chick - *Secretary*

Gail Harcombe - *Treasurer*

Jennifer Armstrong - *Past President*

#### **Directors:**

Terry Bird

Mark Byrne

Robyn Byrne

Daniel Donnecke

Julie Howe

Rosa Munzer

Ann Nightingale

Liam Ragan

Cathy Reader

#### **Staff:**

Gaylia Lassner - *Development Director*

Leesa Watson - *Administrator*

Caitlin Acquroff - *Lead Educator*

### **b) Directors leaving the Board**

This year we have one Director who leaves the Board tonight: Julie Howe. Thank you for your contributions and insight!

### **c) Staff leaving RPBO**

Caitlin Acquroff resigned as Lead Educator in December 2023. In early 2024, RPBO hired Ashlea Veldhoen to fill this position.

## **BANDERS**

### **Fall Migration**

Ann Nightingale - *Project Coordinator*

David Bell - *Bander in Charge*

Evan Lewis - *Bander*

Emma Radzuil - *Bander*



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Sonja Futehalley - *Intern*  
Mara Hanneson – *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

- June 2 to August 6
- 7 banding sessions once in each 10-day period
- Witty’s Lagoon Regional Park *15th year*
- Power To Be site at Prospect Lake *3<sup>rd</sup> year*

#### Banded Birds of MAPS

##### WITTY’S LAGOON

182 new birds  
(22 species)  
60 recaptures  
(11 species)

##### POWER TO BE

151 new birds  
(25 species)  
53 recaptures  
(12 species)

### e) MIGRATION Project

Monitoring annual populations of migratory landbirds

- July 21 to October 18 (90 Days)
- contributes to the efforts of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN)
- Rocky Point site 29<sup>th</sup> year (*DND property, restricted access*)
- Pedder Bay site 12<sup>th</sup> year (*Pedder Bay Marina, public*)

#### Passerine Fall Migration

1st Banding Records

#### Rocky Point

Cackling Goose  
Great Horned Owl  
Vesper Sparrow

#### Pedder Bay

Western Screech Owl  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Total # Banded: **4420** of 63 species  
Total # Recaptures: **675** of 35 species

**3,163** of 62 species  
**913** of 32 species

### f) NOCTURNAL OWL MONITORING Project

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)



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

- 21st year at Rocky Point
- 10th year at Pedder Bay
- 1455 NSWOW banded + 48 recaptures (combined for both stations)
- 22 Barred Owls banded + 1 recapture

Grand Total to Date: 14,490 banded NSWOW

### h) HUMMINGBIRD Project

- Monitoring at 15 sites in BC and Alberta
- published work in the journal Biological Conservation on population characteristics and survivorship of Anna's, Rufous, Calliope, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds.
- James Cambell Finlay, the initiator of the Project, passed away this year
- Birds Banded:
  - 552 Calliope Hummingbird
  - 370 Rufous Hummingbird
  - 26 Anna's Hummingbird
  - 78 Black-chinned Hummingbird
  - 6 Ruby-throated Hummingbird

### i) SEAWATCH Project

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

- 8th season
- primary location off Beechey Head, second location at Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet (Ian Cruickshank)
- 47 visits, for 1 hour starting 30 mins after sunrise, (2nd with "Hour Two" Protocol)
- 18 volunteers in total, 458 volunteer hours
- 60,226 seabirds counted in first hour
- Most numerous bird: Common Murre

### k) EDUCATION & OUTREACH

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

- Third Victoria Bird Week in May
- Pollinator Week showcased hummingbirds (Dr. Alison Moran)
- Special Events / Guest Speakers
- School field trips and programs
- Public bird walks (Outerbridge Park, Pedder Bay)
- Over 60 in-person presentations
- Outreach events to community groups, garden clubs and seniors' residences (Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Power To Be, Bowker Creek Biodiversity Day, Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, CRD Hawk Watch, Christmas Bird Count for Kidd, and more.)
- High School Award Program for graduating students (\$1,000 for environmental conservation as it relates to birds.)
- Launch of "Be a Better Birder" series
- RPBO was represented at the International Bird Observatory Conference in Veracruz, Mexico by Jannaca Chick. Presentation on "Evolution of Banding Station Techniques at RPBO" and poster on "Movement



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behaviour of Northern Saw-whet Owls in coastal areas of British Columbia using the Motus Wildlife Tracking System”.

### **l) OUR VOLUNTEERS**

During the 2023 season, our Volunteers outdid themselves!

- SEAWATCH 18 volunteers 470 hours
- HUMMINGBIRDS 35 volunteers 1000+ hours
- PASSERINES 92 volunteers 5667 hours
- OWLS 71 volunteers 2366 hours
- MAPS Witty's 25 volunteers 399 hours
- MAPS PTOB 28 volunteers 440 hours

10,342 hrs in the field and many more hours behind the scenes. We are so grateful for your support!

### **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 and events
- Newsletter updates
- BC Nature magazine

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

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

Members, Volunteers, Staff, Donors, Sponsors & Corporate Parters

Looking forward to the successes in 2024!



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### **APPENDIX B - Treasurer's Report** **2023 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 2023 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 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 2023 and the carried over balance of grants and specified donations received prior to 2023. The internally restricted funds are restricted for project expenses in 2023 or later years.*

#### **Where does our funding come from?**

##### 2023 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!
  - 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?**



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Our 2023 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 \$157,013, with project expenses approximately 80% of our total cash expenditures.

### **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.

Looking ahead - We will continue actively seeking funding from a variety of sources – no amount too small! – and hope to finish 2024 in a similarly healthy financial position.