



ROCKY POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY Annual Report 2024



OUR MISSION

Rocky Point Bird Observatory seeks to influence and inform ecological management practices and conservation of migratory birds in western North America through monitoring, scientific research and public education.



MONITORING

Rocky Point Bird Observatory operates five avian monitoring projects annually. The focus is on birds breeding in our area, birds that migrate through in the fall, owls, hummingbirds, and seabirds passing through.

RESEARCH

The Science Advisory Committee advises on and guides RPBO's scientific approach. We contribute the data we collect to larger continent-wide datasets that help inform conservation decisions and additionally, work to turn this data into peer-reviewed results.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Education program consists of school programs developed for grades K-12, and a community-based public outreach program. Through speaking engagements and our presence at local events, we spread the message of conservation.

Photo: Song Sparrow (R.Munzer)

Photo front cover: Artistic Black-throated Gray Warbler (E.White-Hill)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

30 Year Anniversary

2024 marked Rocky Point Bird Observatory's 30th Anniversary - a milestone of bird monitoring and research, and educating the public on bird conservation. In October, we hosted an event in Victoria for our staff, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers to celebrate our accomplishments, and were honoured to be joined by RPBO's patron Her Honour Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

RPBO work began in 1994 when volunteers from the Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS), with support from Canadian Wildlife Service, tested areas around Rocky Point in Metchosin for suitability as a migration monitoring station. Today we operate four seasonal banding programs, conduct bird censuses, and operate a year round SeaWatch Program which monitors seabirds in the Salish Sea. Our active Education & Outreach programs bring knowledge of local birds and bird conservation to the forefront, and we continue to publish research papers highlighting important bird science. We are able to accomplish our mission thanks to our hard-working Board, collaborative and dedicated staff and contractors, our passionate volunteers, and generous support of individual donors and our funding partners.

A heart-filled thank you to everyone who worked at the banding stations, delivered educational and community programs, served on committees, organized fundraising



events, provided field support and inventory management, sewed bird bags, repaired nets, and many other tasks. Our banding staff not only professionally delivered our banding programs, they also trained volunteers, and educated and entertained visitors.

Our thanks to the Department of National Defence, Oak Bay Marine Group, Power To Be, and the Capital Regional District for providing homes for our banding and conservation work.

RPBO acknowledges with respect the Ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territories we live and work.

Rosa Munzer, President RPBO

Photo: Chestnut-backed Chickadee (R.Munzer)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position 31 December 2024

Thank you to our donors and supporters for your generous support.

ASSETS	2024				2023				2022
	Endowment Fund	General Fund	Projects Fund***	Total	Endowment Fund	General Fund	Projects Fund***	Total	Total
Cash & other assets (member shares)*	0	23,787	156,408	180,195	0	4,193	142,732	146,925	93,297
Term deposits**	65,539	0	5,674	71,213	58,236	0	9,587	67,823	113,798
Accounts recoverable (includes GST rebate)	0	1,154		1,154	0	502	600	1,102	810
TOTAL ASSETS	65,539	24,941	162,082	252,562	58,236	4,695	152,919	215,850	207,905
LIABILITIES									
Accounts Payable	0	1,898	11,111	13,009	0	1,523	9,403	10,926	2,480
Fund Balances	65,539	24,941	162,082	252,562	58,236	4,695	152,919	215,850	207,905
TOTAL NET EQUITY	65,539	23,043	150,971	239,553	58,236	3,172	143,516	204,924	205,425

*Member shares \$47

**Term deposits include short-term investments (bank term deposits) and the market value of the RPBO Endowment Fund. RPBO receives donor-directed grants and an annual disbursement from the fund managed by the Victoria Foundation.

***Projects Fund includes internally and externally restricted funds.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

INCOME	2024	2023	2022
Grants	108,078	116,992	55,322
Donations and memberships	104,569	47,987	35,130
In-kind support*	40,544	31,629	26,891
In-kind support - volunteer labour**	286,860	254,720	245,000
Fundraising/sales of goods and services	36,805	31,332	23,263
Interest/endowment income	8,381	6,659	1,164
Total Income	585,237	489,319	449,418
EXPENSES			
Projects	166,635	157,013	128,211
In-kind support***	327,404	286,349	271,891
Administration & Fundraising	57,646	46,458	35,846
Total Expenses	551,685	489,820	435,948
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	33,552	-501	-49,178

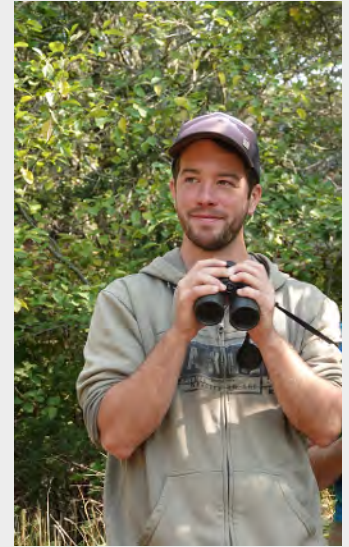
Income includes grants received in 2024 for use in 2025

**Includes contribution of mileage reimbursement, cost of goods and services (e.g., website hosting)*

***Volunteer labour @ \$20/hour*

****Includes all in-kind support*

BANDING STAFF



Photos clockwise from top left:
Gaelin Armstrong - Intern Bander
Emma Radziul - Bander, Migration
Heather Tocher - Intern Bander
David Bell - Bander-in-Charge, Migration
Evan Lewis - Bander, Migration
Mark Byrne - Bander, Owls
Jannaca Chick - Bander, MAPS & Owls
Evan Larson - Intern Bander
Mara Hanneson - Bander, Migration

FALL MIGRATION

The 2024 Fall Migration monitoring season marked the 30th year of migration monitoring at Rocky Point and the 13th year at Pedder Bay. While Canadian Migration Monitoring Network member stations focus on monitoring migratory landbirds through standardized banding and field observations, all birds noted are recorded. A total of 6870 birds were banded across both stations with a further 1357 birds recaptured. Additionally, 468,946 individuals of 195 species were observed across both stations.

	Total Banded	Species Banded	Total Recaptured	Species Recaptured	Total Observed	Total Species
Rocky Point	4051	64	686	41	401,485	189
Pedder Bay	2819	57	671	38	67,461	129
Total	6870	70	1357	47	468,946	195

Bander-in-charge David Bell led a team that included banders Evan Lewis, Emma Radziul, and Mara Hanneson, alongside interns Evan Larson, Heather Tocher, and Gaelin Armstrong. The staff were assisted by 95 volunteers who collectively contributed 5913 hours of effort, and we welcomed 324 visitors of all ages to our public site at Pedder Bay.

While 2024 had a lower species diversity than last year, there were many interesting birds and migration phenomena seen. The first rarity captured was a female Black-and-white Warbler, followed by two Evening Grosbeaks, a Merlin, three Least Sandpipers, a Lark Sparrow and a Western Meadowlark. A rare visitor to the Rocky Point station (literally) was a White-winged Dove, but despite the wishes of the banding crew, it did not enter the nets. Other rarities seen but not captured included an unprecedented influx of hundreds of Sabine's Gulls past Rocky Point, a Franklin's Gull, a Pygmy Nuthatch, and British Columbia's first record for Mississippi Kite.

A comprehensive report of our migration monitoring season is available on the RPBO website.



*Photos from top:
Lark Sparrow (E.Radziul)
Western Meadowlark (R.Munzer)
Merlin (D.Bell)*

MAPS Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program is a collaborative project, managed by the Institute for Bird Populations, collecting demographic data on North American land birds in their breeding range since 1989. Analyses of the MAPS data provide critical information relating to songbird ecology that can be applied to conservation and management. Rocky Point Bird Observatory has contributed data to the MAPS project since 2003. In 2024, RPBO continued operation of MAPS stations at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (WILA) in Metchosin and Power To Be (PTOB) on Prospect Lake. At WILA, 240 new birds were banded with 77 recaptures, and at PTOB there were 213 new birds and 74 recaptures. In addition to banding, RPBO continued pollen collection for the "Songbirds as Pollinators" (SaP) study for the second consecutive year. Feather samples were collected on specific species for a study by Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.

Collaboration with Power To Be was very successful, with the station hosting several enthusiastic groups from their programs, plus a film crew from Altitude Sports who filmed our work at the banding station. Banding highlights included two female Cassin's Vireos with brood patches and 20 recaptures from our previous three years at this site, including some long distance migrants. At the Witty's Lagoon station, highlights included two breeding pairs of Black-headed Grosbeaks on the first day of banding, and our first inter-year MAPS-Migration recapture - a Western Flycatcher banded in 2023 at our Rocky Point banding station.



Photos from left:

*Male and Female Black-headed Grosbeaks at Witty's Lagoon
(R.Byrne)*

*Cassin's Vireo at Power To Be
(M.Hanneson)*



NOCTURNAL OWL MONITORING

RPBO has been monitoring Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO) migration since 2002, an incredible 22 years at Rocky Point and 11 years at Pedder Bay. Our 22nd season proved more successful than anticipated, with the third highest number of NSWO banded since the program's inception. A total of 1251 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 11 Barred Owls were banded. We also banded 2 other owl species: a hatch year American Barn Owl and a Long-eared Owl. Thirteen NSWO that were banded by RPBO in previous years were recaptured this year. There were also 2 foreign recaptures, one from Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, and the other from Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory, in central BC.

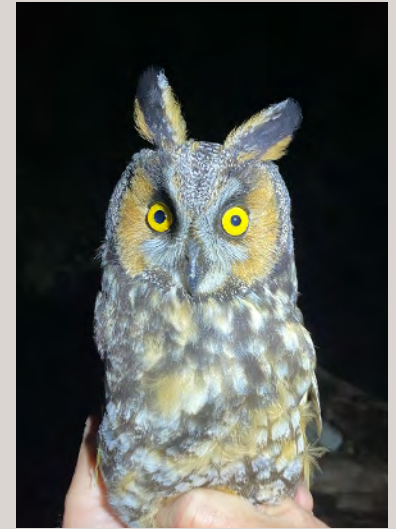


Photo: Northern Saw-whet Owl "Grace"
(J.Chick)

After the highly successful banding season in 2023, where 87.5% were hatch year owls, it was interesting to observe that 44.5% of the NSWO we banded this year were second year birds, indicating a good survival rate.

The Pedder Bay station provides a valuable opportunity to educate the public about NSWO and our research. This year we hosted 498 visitors, the highest number to date. Twenty-seven Department of National Defence personnel and family members visited the Rocky Point station. In November, 20 people participated in an owl banding demonstration we conducted on the Power To Be property.

In 2024, we held our inaugural photo contest for the *Cutest Owl of the Season*. Banders chose 10 of their favourite owls, and members voted on their photo and short "profile bio". The winner was a lovely hatch-year female named "Grace".



Photos above:
Long-eared Owl at Rocky Point (M.Byrne)

HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT



Total hummingbirds for the 2024 season	
Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)	10
Black-chinned Hummingbird (BCHU)	78
Calliope Hummingbird (CAHU)	371
Rufous Hummingbird (RUHU)	284

Photo: Adult male Rufous Hummingbird at feeder (J.Moran)

Our Hummingbird Team was busy in 2024, donating 660 hours to monitoring and banding and many hundreds of additional volunteer hours to non-banding activities including long-distance travel to sites, education, conservation efforts, and research. Thank you!

Monitoring took place at 12 sites in BC and Alberta, with 615 new birds banded and 122 recaptured. Numbers were low for the coast and Alberta, despite increased monitoring efforts. In particular, we noted a poor return of Rufous Hummingbirds again this year, continuing the downward trend observed over the past two decades.

In our population research published last year, one of the findings was that once birds reach maturity, their odds of surviving increase. This makes sense, as an adult's experience would be invaluable in decision making. In 2024, we saw a few star returners, who had been to Mexico and back many times over. These astonishing females were all adults when first banded, so even older now.

K82726 – Adult female CAHU, first banded in Highwood Jct AB Aug 23, 2018 (min 7 yrs old)

K56367 – Adult female CAHU, first banded in Kaleden May 30, 2018 (min 7 yrs old)

N27255 – Adult female RUHU, first banded in Goldstream May 18, 2018 (min 7 yrs old)

K87195 – Adult female CAHU, first banded in Castlegar June 26, 2017 (min 8 yrs old)

We hope you joined us for some of our public education activities in 2024, such as our in-person or online presentations during Victoria Bird Week in May or Pollinator Week in June. We provide information about hummingbirds to the public and have been working on improvements to the website content. In addition, we answered queries from hummingbird lovers and the media on topics that varied from safe feeding practices to the latest research papers.

SEAWATCH

During our ninth SeaWatch season, 14 volunteers hiked to Beechey Head in East Sooke Park for at least 1 of 52 standardized SeaWatch visits, contributing a total of 572 volunteer hours. Additionally, 4 surveys were conducted at Ten Mile Point in Oak Bay (five volunteer hours). Ian Cruickshank also continued SeaWatch efforts at Amphitrite Point in Ucluelet along the open Pacific Flyway, completing 35 two-hour surveys (170 volunteer hours and 164,031 birds counted).

At Beechey Head, survey duration varied: 4 one-hour counts, 16 two-hour counts, 30 three-hour counts, and 2 four-hour counts. While bird movement was strongest in the first hour, some species like Surf Scoter remained steady, and others such as Pacific Loon increased in later hours. A total of 133,745 seabirds from 70 species were recorded over the year.

Family (count)	# of Species	Most Numerous Species	Highlights
Geese (605)	4	410 Brant	3 Greater White-fronted Geese
Ducks (5671)	19	4,001 Surf Scoter	1 pair of Cinnamon Teal
Shorebirds (3652)	12	2,637 Red-necked Phalarope	1 Baird's Sandpiper
Jaegers (58)	2	36 Parasitic Jaeger	16 Pomarine Jaeger
Alcids (40,667)	6	32,611 Common Murre	2 Cassin's Auklet
Gulls (70,710)	12	40,512 California Gull	1 Little Gull
Terns (6)	1	6 Caspian Tern	
Grebes (253)	3	180 Red-necked Grebe	61 Western Grebe
Loons (1989)	4	1,496 Pacific Loon	1 Yellow-billed Loon
Tube-noses (4078)	3	1,147 Short-tailed Shearwater	1 Northern Fulmar
Pelicans (5)	1	5 Brown Pelican	
Cormorants (6051)	3	3,982 Brandt's Cormorant	waves of Double-crested Cormorants

Season Highlights

August 26: Spectacular migration event with 867 Sabine's Gulls and 1184 Red-necked Phalaropes moving east.

October 6: Influx of 800+ Short-tailed Shearwaters.

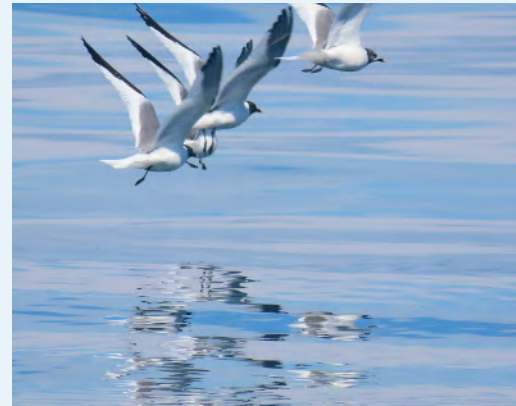
Mar-Apr: First documentation of spring migration Turkey Vultures at Beechey Head after crossing Juan de Fuca Strait (up to 24 birds at a time)



Photos from left:

SeaWatch Volunteers at Beechey Head (R.Byrne)

Sabine's Gulls (R.Munzer)



EDUCATION

RPBO continues to offer diverse Adult Educational programs, including free bird walks and both online and in-person lectures. In 2024, we continued our popular *Be a Better Birder* workshop series, and free monthly *Feathers and Flight Nights* lectures. Both saw strong enrolment and significant community interest. Our annual banding workshop at Royal Roads University was a great success, attracting 30 participants both in class and in the field.

Throughout the year we continued to see good turnout at events such as Pollinator Week, Victoria Bird Week, and the Great Backyard Bird Count. RPBO took part in several community walks & talks at Outerbridge Park, including the City Nature Challenge with iNaturalist in April, the family-friendly *Inspired by Outerbridge* event led by Marlene Russo in October, and our own bird walks held on the second Sunday of each month.

New in 2024 was a drawing workshop series led by RPBO's Lead Educator, Ashlea Veldhoen, to help connect people to conservation through the arts. We introduced the *Wonderwalks* series - educator-led bird walks for families and a professional development workshop designed to help classroom teachers connect students to birding.

**Total Estimated Participants in
Education Programs: 1650
Total Programs Offered: 42**



Photos from left:

*Be a Better Birder
course - Drawing
Lifelike Birds, at
Outerbridge Park
(R.Munzer)*

*Banding Workshop
2024 at Royal Roads
University (A.Veldhoen)*



OUTREACH



Photos from top:

Family Day Outreach Event at HCP

Net-mending social at Outerbridge Park (R.Munzer)

The Pedder Bay banding station welcomed the public for both songbird and owl banding programs, with several school groups visiting for field trips. Students had the opportunity to see birds up close and learn about the important research behind the banding process, as well as participate in some fun bird-themed activities with our educators.

Our Outreach programs connected with many community events around Victoria throughout the year, including Metchosin Community Days and the Highlands Fling in September, the CRD Hawkwatch in October, and Pollinator Week in May.

2024 saw another great group of participants at RPBO's annual Christmas Bird Count For Kids in December at Beckwith Park in Saanich. Twenty-six kids participated in an afternoon of guided bird walks around the park, had a chance to try out borrowed binoculars and learned about some of the common bird visitors to their neighbourhood in the winter.

RPBO designed birdhouses for a new city park in Victoria, as part of a redevelopment project undertaken by BC Transit and the City of View Royal. The bird houses were assembled by residents of New Roads Therapeutic Recovery Community and painted by Eagle View Elementary students. A great example of a community coming together to create and restore bird habitat at a grassroots level.

RPBO is dedicated to inspiring involvement in environmental conservation, especially the protection of birds and their habitats. Each year, we present an award to support students pursuing careers in conservation and the environment. Congratulations to our 2024 recipient, Brianna Dorival. Her passion for birds and nature is truly inspiring, and her application demonstrated a strong dedication to hard work and excellence.

WHY OUR WORK IS SO IMPORTANT

Conservation through research, monitoring and public education

Birds serve as good indicators of the health and sustainability of the natural environment. Because of their popular appeal, birds can serve as environmental ambassadors, a key entry point to get the public interested in broader environmental issues and as an inspiration for a love of nature.

Bird banding provides valuable data for monitoring bird populations. By tracking individual birds over time, researchers can estimate population sizes, determine migration patterns, and assess changes in distribution. This information is essential for understanding population trends, identifying conservation priorities, and developing effective management strategies.

Rocky Point Bird Observatory has been carrying out our important work since 1994, and became a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) in 2001. RPBO is the only west coast observatory contributing to this collaborative initiative, contributing vital long-term information on bird demographics, phenology, population trends, and other essential information about the species that pass through our banding stations.

As part of the CMMN, RPBO generates high quality research that advances the understanding of birds and influences bird conservation. Our data, combined with data from other CMMN members, are available to the scientific community, wildlife managers and regulators, and the general public.

Supporters like you allow this work to continue.

*Thank you for partnering with us in our efforts
to support bird conservation.*

Photo: Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) October 2024 (J.Chick)

RESEARCH

In March, RPBO gave two presentations at the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Steering Committee Meeting - "RPBO Lessons in Direct Data Entry" by Michael Motek, and "Movement Behaviour of Northern Saw-whet Owls in Coastal British Columbia" by James Kennerley.

For a second season, RPBO participated in the Colorado State University project *Songbirds as Pollinators* (SaP). During our MAPS monitoring program, pollen samples were collected from certain bird species, to better understand their role in plant pollination by North American songbirds.

A three-year collaboration between RPBO and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency resulted in a conference presentation titled: "*Ixodes scapularis*, an East Coast Lyme Disease Vector, Hitchhiked to Vancouver Island on Migratory Birds" authored by K.Tran and N.Shahhosseini. This was the first time this east coast tick species had been observed on migratory birds west of the Rockies. Ticks collected by RPBO were identified first by morphological methods and confirmed by genetic methods.

RPBO is beginning a study on the migration ecology of Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, comparing their migration and stopover strategies to assess their responses to environmental change.

RPBO is poised to collaborate on a Bird Genoscape Project (run by researchers from Colorado State University and the University of California) that seeks to characterize the distribution of genetic variation for 100 bird species across

their respective breeding ranges. The overall goal is to better understand the population declines observed for many migratory birds.

A paper titled "*Turkey Vulture Aggregations at a Water Barrier Provide Evidence of Fall Migration-Delays and Population Increases over 26 Years*" was submitted to Journal of Raptor Research in December 2024 and is currently under review. This paper was the result of a two and a half year collaboration between D.Kramer, S.LaZerte and D.Dönnecke.

Using data collected from RPBO's fall nocturnal owl monitoring program, M.Buers is working on a study of molt patterns in Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) feathers for the purpose of exploring the link between body condition and molt strategies.



Photo: Turkey Vulture (A.Nightingale)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer support for our conservation efforts is vital to the success of our projects. In 2024, 126+ individuals together volunteered over 13,771+ hours, plus another 572+ hours were spent doing SeaWatch monitoring. Countless additional hours were dedicated to the Hummingbird Project, bird surveys, garage sales, net mending, research, Board service, site preparation, staffing community events, tracking inventory, greeting visitors - the list goes on and on! The amount of volunteer time contributed, and the number of individuals involved, continues to grow.

In the field, the volunteer contribution ranges from birding novices to bird experts. Our volunteers rise before dawn to open nets for early birds and stay up late into the night to band feisty owls. They travel from near and far, much like the birds that are the focus of these efforts. The strong sense of community created by those who dedicate their time to Rocky Point Bird Observatory is truly the lifeblood of our organization.

Our volunteers drive our success with their support and enthusiasm, playing a vital role in every one of our projects.

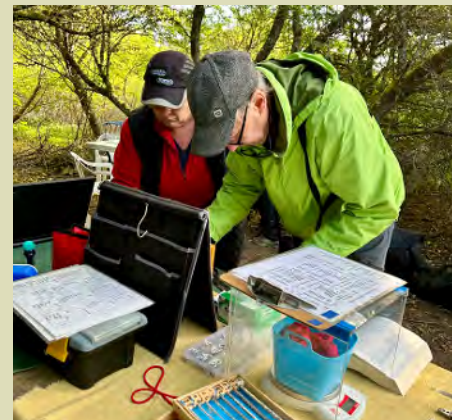
We are united in our passion for birds and conservation. As bird populations continue to be challenged, it is heartwarming to see so many people involved with our monitoring and education efforts to help spread the message of conservation. We are incredibly grateful for the contribution that each volunteer has made, and we hope that they have enjoyed their experience.

126+ Volunteers
14,343+ Hours
A Priceless Contribution

*Photos from top:
Highlands Fling Community Event (A.Veldhoen)
MAPS Volunteers at Witty's Lagoon (R.Byrne)*



***Your time
was truly
appreciated***



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Photo: female Northern Saw-whet Owl at Pedder Bay (J.Chick)

Becoming a member of RPBO means joining a passionate community dedicated to bird conservation.

Your support helps protect birds and their habitats while offering you exclusive benefits:

- Stay connected on our latest research, events, and opportunities through newsletters, webinars, and special updates.
- Connect with like-minded bird enthusiasts and build lasting friendships.
- Get up close with the birds you're helping to protect.
- Enjoy invitations to our events at the station and in the community.
- Gain access to training in bird identification, monitoring techniques, and conservation practices.
- Receive discounts on select courses and events
- Stay informed with a subscription to BC Nature magazine

Join us today and be a vital part of protecting birds for future generations!

SPONSORS and CORPORATE PARTNERS

"BC Naturalists' Foundation is proud to support the work of RPBO, a member club working hard to support the mission of BC Nature knowing nature and keeping it worth knowing."

Stephen Partington,
President BC Naturalists' Foundation

**Rocky Point Bird Observatory
sincerely thanks the following
organizations for providing
grants, donations or in-kind
support in 2024**

"Nature Victoria is like a proud parent, whose RPBO offspring has grown and flourished into a highly successful bird conservation society."

Andrew Harcombe,
President Nature Victoria

1% For The Planet

1% For The Planet Pass-Through Fund through
the Victoria Foundation

BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature

Birds Canada

CanadaHelps Cause Fund

Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Capital Regional District

Department of National Defence

District of Saanich

Eagle Wing Tours

Eco Canada

Government of Canada: New Horizons for Seniors

Greater Victoria Naturehood

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

IslandHosting.com

Islandnet.com

Nature Canada

Nature Victoria (Victoria Natural History Society)

Oak Bay Marine Group / Pedder Bay Marina and RV Resort

Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry

PayPal Giving Fund Canada

Power To Be Adventure Therapy Society

Province of British Columbia

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund

Rocky Point Bird Observatory Fund through the Victoria Foundation

The Soap Exchange

Wild Birds Unlimited Victoria

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rosa Munzer, *President*

Terry Bird, *Vice President*

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Andrew Harcombe, *Past President*

Mark Byrne Simone Littleddale

Robyn Byrne Ann Nightingale

Jannaca Chick Cathy Reader

Daniel Dönnecke Liam Seward-Ragan

STAFF

Gaylia Lassner, *Development Director*

Ashlea Veldhoen, *Lead Educator*

Leesa Watson, *Administrator*

**Your donation makes
a significant impact
and supports all our
projects and operations**

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Individuals who have purchased Lifetime Memberships or contributed more than 1000 hours

Jennifer Armstrong	Sharon Godkin	Shirley Mackie	Cathy Reader
Sandra Borne	Andrew Harcombe	Susanne Maidment	Marlene Russo
Kim Beardmore	Gail Harcombe	Michael McGrenere	Ann Scarfe
Pier Brown	Rick Hardy	Wallis Moore-Reid	Margie Shepherd
Mark Byrne	Gordon Hart	Alison Moran	Michael Simmons
Robyn Byrne	Cheryl Houston	Jon Moran	Heather Simonds
Jannaca Chick	Julie Howe	Storm Morgan	Liam Singh
Anne Cotter	Joanna Kafarowski	Jo Motek	Fern Walker
Ian Cruickshank	Hitomi Kimura	Michael Motek	Mark Walker
Ivy Doak	Christina Lam	Rosa Munzer	Jody Wells
Daniel Dönnecke	Marilyn Lambert	Michael Newman	
Sue Elwell	Gail Loughridge	Rae Ann Newman	
Jesse Fanucchi	Cheryl Mackie	Ann Nightingale	

INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL DONORS

Platinum \$10,000+

Sharon Godkin
Ann Nightingale

Sponsor \$2500+

Anonymous
Anne Cotter
Daniel Dönnecke
Rosa Munzer

Benefactor \$1500+

Anonymous
Storm Morgan
Michael Motek
Mark Byrne
Robyn Byrne
Mark Walker
Alison Moran

Patron \$1000+

Melissa Anderson
Kim Beardmore
Jannaca Chick
Anne Porter

Sustainer \$500+

Deanna Ferguson
Liam Seward-Ragan
Walter Thorne
Marlene Russo
Eric Demers
Fern Walker & Ted Warren
Sandra Bourne
Mary Catherine Reader
Beth Christopher
Michael McGrenere
Gail Harcombe

Black-throated Gray Warbler, cover art

Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun, 2024

"This design for the Rocky Point Bird Observatory's 30th Anniversary honours the Black-throated Gray Warbler using Coast Salish art. The artwork is representative of this unique bird species and also references traditional Coast Salish design. Coast Salish shapes flow through the bird's body and within the outer pattern, honouring the flow of movement and energy in these birds and on the land. It was a very fun challenge to draw them in a more figurative way than the more abstracted style I am used to. I am honoured to have been asked to do this design to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Rocky Point Bird Observatory and all the work they do."



Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun (he/they) is an artist and storyteller from the Snuneymuxw First Nation in Nanaimo, BC. His interdisciplinary art practice is rooted in honouring and celebrating the teachings and stories passed down by his family, community, and culture. He works across a range of mediums including digital art, painting, sculpture, installation, creative writing, and curation. He currently resides on the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

EAGLE WING TOURS COLLABORATION

An incredible new partnership began in 2024 between RPBO and Eagle Wing Tours to raise awareness of the birds of the Salish Sea and the funds necessary to steward them. The collaboration allows RPBO to monitor pelagic birds from the water, complementing our land-based SeaWatch program.

Eagle Wing Tours has allocated a weekly spot for an RPBO volunteer on their whale-watching tours. The volunteers collect data on bird movements in the Salish Sea, focused primarily on islands like Race Rocks, the Church Islands, and Chain Islands as well as marine banks such as Constance Bank and Coyote Bank. These data points provide year-round monitoring of bird movement patterns and help identify seasonal influxes that might otherwise be overlooked. Volunteers also educate the guests about threats faced by birds in the Salish Sea and opportunities to protect them.

Utilizing Eagle Wing Tours' skilled crews and world-class ecotourism vessels and RPBO's knowledgeable volunteers, RPBO hosted three bird-focused tours from Victoria. A portion of the proceeds supports RPBO's monitoring efforts. These tours also serve as a valuable opportunity to educate the public about marine birds, their breeding behaviours and migratory preferences, and the vital role of the Salish Sea in their well-being.



WHALE & WILDLIFE WATCHING
EAGLE WING TOURS



Photos: Birdwatching on the Salish Sea, RPBO on Eagle Wing Tours boat (G.Newell)

California Gull with Humpback Whale (L.Seward-Ragan)

Year in Review Pictures



Photos from top, left to right:

Northern Saw-whet Owl closeup (J.Chick)

Tea Time for Daniel Dönnecke (R.Byrne)

Northern Saw-whet Owl feathered eye lid (A.Ross)

Banders working hard at Rocky Point station (R.Byrne)

Halloween Night, Ann and Jannaca (J.Chick and A.Nightingale)

Barn Owl talons and band (M.Byrne)

Northern Saw-whet Owl #1000 for the season, Pedder Bay (J.Chick)

Bird #4000 Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rocky Point (D.Bell)

1st Varied Thrush on the last day of the season, Rocky Point (E.Radziul)



Year in Review Pictures



Photos clockwise from top left:
White-throated Sparrow (D.Bell)
Mississippi Kite (D.Bell)
Barn Owl (M.Byrne)
White-winged Dove (C.Reader)
Western Tanager (D.Bell)
Pileated Woodpecker (E.Larson)
"Red" Fox Sparrow (D.Bell)
Black-and-white Warbler (D.Bell)
Rufous Hummingbird (L.Seward-Ragan)
Least Sandpiper (D.Bell)



Photo back cover:
Pedder Bay's final
bird of 2024 - male
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
(E.Lewis)

Rocky Point Bird Observatory
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without the generosity of
people like you!



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OF BIRD CONSERVATION THROUGH MONITORING, RESEARCH, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION.

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