

Current Volunteer Opportunities at RPBO



The following are brief introductions to some of the volunteer positions currently available at RPBO. More detailed position descriptions are available - with more information about required time commitments, skills and qualifications. If you are interested, please reach out to start the conversation!

EFFORT:	Light Activity	Walking Outdoors	Walking Outdoors Uphill	Hiking	Computer Work
TIMING:	Vehicle Required	Early Mornings	Late Nights		
SKILLS:	Specific Skill Requirement	Bird Handling Experience	Bird Identification Experience		

Band Recovery Manager

Are you one of those tech-savvy individuals? Are you interested in a 'behind the scenes' volunteering opportunity? RPBO is looking for a Band Recovery Manager, whose duty it would be to maintain an electronic record of all band recoveries. The Band Recovery Manager is free to design the data repository as they see fit, so long as it meets certain requirements. This data will be used on the RPBO website as well as in research projects. A band recovery occurs when a banded bird is found and reported to the banding office. For the purpose of this role, we are not including recaptures of birds previously banded by RPBO. Examples of band recoveries include (but are not limited to):

- Birds recaptured at other stations
 - Birds taken to wildlife rehabilitation centers
 - Dead birds (collisions, predation, etc)
 - Birds photographed in the field where the observer manages to take pictures of the band.
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Host for Be-A-Better-Birder Courses

RPBO hosts a variety of in-person and in-field presentations led by subject-matter experts throughout the year, supporting our Outreach efforts in bird monitoring, identification, and conservation. This role collaborates with RPBO Development to coordinate these events, ensuring a seamless experience for both presenters and participants. Be present at the venue on the day of the course. Responsibilities include assisting with event setup and takedown, managing course materials, signing in attendees, and providing on-site support to help the event run smoothly.

Liaison - Banding Station

The Liaison serves as the friendly face to the public at our Pedder Bay banding station during Owl Nights. The position might more aptly be named our “Director of First Impressions” - welcoming visitors with warmth and enthusiasm. We provide training on the subject matter, how to answer FAQs, and general information on RPBO programs and projects. You provide information about our programs, activities, and facilities, to ensure visitors have all they need for an unforgettable experience. Support the needs of the Banders and Staff on shift. This role may be on an as-needed basis, when larger groups or event days are scheduled at the station.

Coordinator - Online Store

The Coordinator would maintain and expand our existing online store, accessed through our website. Design products on Zazzle and upload to RPBO's Online Shop. Create new products suitable for the RPBO logo. Maintain a simple database of product details. Working on your own time, and from your own location, this volunteer opportunity would suit an individual with some digital technology skills and a flare for creativity.

Scheduler, Volunteer shifts

We are seeking a dynamic individual to join our team as a Scheduler of Volunteer Shifts. This position plays a critical role in ensuring the smooth operation of our Monitoring Programs and Education & Outreach initiatives. Volunteers sign up for shifts online through the app When To Help. But not all shifts get filled in advance. And that's where you come in. The Scheduler will contact members of our existing volunteer corps to fill these vacancies. The ideal candidate will have strong communication skills and love engaging and speaking with people. Though email is a tool, this role will involve calling people directly, often on short notice, to fill immediate shifts. You are persuasive and firm, yet polite and creative in your approach to get the roles filled. We provide the list of names and contact information - you just do the calling! This role is well suited to those who have flexible spare time, and need/want to work from home. Time commitment would be a few days of training, and callings would be short but frequent and random throughout the banding season.

Coordinator - Community Presentations

RPBO receives many requests from community organizations who want to learn more about birds, their habitats, and their role in our environment. The Rocky Point Bird Observatory Community Presentation initiative exists to offer presentations about birds and bird conservation delivered by knowledgeable speakers. Upon receipt of a grant, RPBO wrote four presentations and a group of volunteers participated in training for the effective delivery of these presentations, and we have begun to build a database of organizations interested in booking. Presentations are available for community groups, schools, clubs, and other organizations throughout Greater Victoria and southern Vancouver Island. The Community Presentations Coordinator will be responsible for the when, where and who of arranging these presentations. Working on your own time, and from your own location, this volunteer opportunity would suit a very organized person, with no reservations about reaching out to others to align schedules.

Presenter - Community Presentations

Are you someone who loves talking to an audience? A salesperson? Someone who likes learning new things? Then this may be the role for you! Learn to become the presenter of various bird-related presentations to community groups, either at a community location, or virtually online. Presentations are ~45 min slideshows, and are already prepared by RPBO. We provide training on how to set up the presentation, techniques on successful presenting, full cover of the subject matter, how to answer FAQs, and general information on RPBO programs and projects. All supplies are provided and scheduling will be handled by RPBO. Time commitment would be several days of training and practice, and presentations are a few hours at a time, 3-5 times a year.

Party Planner

Your primary responsibility is to orchestrate two parties a year - the start-of-season (July) and end-of-season (October) group parties for Volunteers, Banders, Staff, and Board Members. We celebrate the launch of a new monitoring season by welcoming our staff & volunteers, new and returning. And we toast the success of a completed season, and thank everyone who participated for all their hard work. This role can be done independently or shared with a friend. Action Plans from previous parties are available to get you started. Secure a host (someone's house/backyard), name the date, invite the guests, arrange for food, secure a presenter (usually a Bander) and equipment, help with set up and clean up. These are low-budget, high-fun events that we all look forward to every year!

Event Planner - Annual Fundraising Event

Christmas Craft Show, Book Sale, Yard Sale - to name three of our annual fundraising events. Each event needs a dedicated leader. The Planner would arrange the who, where, when, and how of the whole event - venue, date & time, event promotion, supplies, sale items - from set up to take down. RPBO has a large corp of volunteers that can be called upon to help out with each event, and previous years Action Plans are available. These Planners report to the Development Director who oversees RPBO's Fundraising initiatives. These events not only raise funds for RPBO's migration monitoring, public education and research programs, but also promote camaraderie and interaction with our Volunteers and expand awareness of RPBO in the community. Ideal for those who enjoy a fun and rewarding challenge but prefer a once-a-year commitment.

Online Researcher

Periodically, our different departments - Development, Education, Operations, Board - may require investigation and online research into products or solutions to support their programs and projects - product cost comparisons, search for new grant opportunities or corporate sponsorships, educational materials, best practice ideas. Meet with your team to determine their needs, strategy and deliverables. Working on your own time, and from your own location, this volunteer opportunity requires internet connection, and knowledge of Google Drive. Keeping an ultimate deadline in mind, this opportunity suits a flexible schedule. Track and document your findings in a simple online document.

Education & Outreach Assistant

Education & Outreach events and programs are led by RPBO's Lead Educator, with support from our Development Director. Events are scheduled throughout the year - weekdays, weekends, daytime, evenings. Locations vary from outside at our public banding station in Metchosin or Outerbridge Park in Saanich, to hosting a booth inside at community events throughout the greater Victoria area. You engage with the public about RPBO's conservation and education programs. You will be on a call list for all events - choose only those that you can attend. School Programs, Public Outreach, Victoria Bird Week. This role especially suits those with teaching or instructional experience, a love of working with the public, and the willingness to learn from our established team members. Plenty of room to learn on the job!

Crew - Station Opening & Closing

Join the Crew and play a pivotal role in the onsite set up and tear down of our seasonal monitoring projects. As part of a larger team, you would be called upon only a few times a year to assist with the opening and closing of our Fall Migration (July/Oct), Owl Migration (Sept/Oct) or MAPS (May & Aug) monitoring stations. It is a great reassurance to the Project Coordinators to have reliable and consistent volunteer help in these areas, with experienced crew members on hand to offer guidance and help in training new-comers. Under guidance from the Operations Coordinator and the Project Coordinators, the Crew installs poles and nets, clears net lanes and walking paths, and sets up the station with all the gear, furniture and equipment. If you like being outside, working with your hands (and the occasional power tool), and being among friends, these one-day gigs a few times a year might be just the thing for you!

Field Scribe

This volunteer field position takes place at the Banding Station(s), entering research data into a spreadsheet. You will work alongside the Banders, and record the scientific information they provide in real time while examining and banding birds. You must be focused, attentive and pay attention to details. This is best suited to individuals who are calm and quiet, and can adapt to sudden changes in work load - slow & quiet, to fast & furious.

Extractor / Extractor Trainer

This volunteer field position takes place at the Banding Station(s) for a full 6

Station Helper

This volunteer field position takes place at the Banding Station(s).

Census



RPBO conducts daily census bird counts at both Pedder Bay and Rocky Point stations, every morning during the banding season. Census can include every bird seen and heard on a set course for a set time. The Pedder Bay Census route is a 5km path around the Marina grounds and must be walked in 75 minutes. Only those with at least 75% identification success rate can participate. The census walk can only be done by one person - no guests permitted.

Event Photographer & Videographer

As much as we all love photos of birds, this is a role to take photos of the people that make RPBO what it is. As an Event Photographer & Videographer, you'll play a vital role in capturing all the fun. You'll be on site to take vibrant photos of guests and activities—everything from candid moments and group interactions to important ceremonies. Throughout the event, it's also your responsibility to ensure key and special moments are captured on video - ribbon-cuttings, award presentations, you name it. After the event wraps, you'll select the best shots and footage, then apply a little photo/video editing to create polished deliverables that reflect the event's atmosphere and purpose. Your work will be used to promote our mission across social media, newsletters, and future outreach efforts. It's a fulfilling way to pitch in—especially since event dates are set well in advance, giving you time to plan. Event organizers count on someone reliable to capture our special moments when it matters most, so your focus and consistency will make a real difference.

Station Videographer

Ready to step behind the camera? As our volunteer Videographer, you'll visit the banding station(s) frequently throughout the season, and work closely with the Project Coordinator (PC) to shoot both training and promotional videos. You'll create shorts of proper bird handling and RPBO banding techniques, at the direction of the PC, as well as creating fun, engaging promos that showcase why RPBO rocks. Turn raw footage into compelling videos using any editing software you like. You'll take notes to produce polished edits. And you'll get the satisfaction of creating visuals that teach, inspire, and maybe even spark the next generation of birders. If you love birds, storytelling, and the reward of seeing your edited clip live on our channels—this role is for you!

Promotional Calendar Coordinator

We're looking for a creative and organized volunteer to lead the planning and creation of our annual fundraising calendar! This role involves coordinating the production of a beautiful 12-month calendar featuring bird photos taken by our talented members. You won't need to take the photos yourself, but if you have photo editing skills, that's a definite plus. You'll be the point person for selecting and laying out images, working with and arranging details with our printer. As part of our annual fundraising campaign, this calendar will serve the additional intent to support our community engagement opportunities. By reaching out to local businesses, community leaders, and corporate partners, you invite them to advertise or list their events in our calendar. It's a great opportunity to combine a bit of art direction with community engagement and fundraising. This role requires strong communication skills, attention to detail, and the ability to manage timelines. Reporting to, and taking direction from, the Fundraising Committee, this is a work-independently opportunity — of course, with support when you need it!



Time Commitment More



Time Commitment Less