

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)
Power To Be
2025



*Red-breasted Sapsucker, Power To Be, 2025.
Photo: Jannaca Chick.*



Prepared by Jannaca Chick
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Acknowledgements

Rocky Point Bird Observatory acknowledges with respect Scia'new and T'Sou-ke First Nations on whose territory we work, as well as the many other Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples of the region. We recognize their leadership, and that of all indigenous peoples, for time immemorial, to protect the land and water for the benefit of birds and people alike.

This project would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of Power To Be (PTOB) and their staff.

In 2025, MAPS monitoring by Rocky Point Bird Observatory was conducted primarily by volunteers. Personnel include: MAPS Coordinator Cathy Reader, Volunteer Coordinator Robyn Byrne, and Bander-in-Charge Jannaca Chick (contractor), Mark Byrne (Bander Trainee), and Ashlea Veldhoen (Lead Educator); station setup and takedown, monitoring efforts, and education liaison were completed with the volunteer help of Kim Beardmore, Amber Billard, Dan Burgin, Mark Byrne, Robyn Byrne, Jannaca Chick, John Costello, Anne Cotter, Craig Emes, Skyler Freeman, Gail Harcombe, Erin Haydl, Max Hellicar, Dallas MacNeill, Josh McCallum, Storm Morgan, Jo Motek, Mike Motek, Ann Nightingale, Kimberly Parnod, Emma Radziul, Cathy Reader, Rebecca Reader-Lee, Adam Ross, Maddy Vallee, Mark Walker and Robyn Yoshida.

There were 340 volunteer hours of field work logged at the Power To Be site during the 2025 MAPS season; this includes site preparation, set up and take down, and education liaison. This does not include administrative volunteer hours. The MAPS banding season would not have been possible without our volunteers and the generous donation of their time and effort.



Banding station at Power To Be, 2025.

Photo: Jannaca Chick.

Summary

2025 was the fifth year that Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) ran the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program at the Power To Be (PTOB) property on Prospect Lake in Victoria, B.C.

Sampling was conducted between 6 June 2025 and 3 August 2025 (MAPS periods 4 to 10), for a total of seven sessions, one for each 10-day MAPS period. Mist nets were deployed, and birds extracted, banded, and processed according to the MAPS Manual 2025 Protocol (DeSante et al. 2025) developed by The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP). Breeding status was determined by observing the body condition of individuals while in the hand, by location of active nests, and by the formulae prescribed by IBP. Each sampling day, detections of birds seen or heard were also recorded in accordance with the MAPS protocol.

In addition to following the MAPS protocol, RPBO also participated in two studies at both MAPS stations (Witty's Lagoon and Power To Be Prospect Lake):

- 1) The Bird Genoscape Project, conducted by Amanda Carpenter, MSc, Lab & Collections Manager, Ruegg Lab, at Colorado State University.
- 2) Kimberly Parno, Queens University master's student, blood sampling of Vancouver Island Swainson's Thrushes.

In total, 136 individual birds of 30 species were banded, 47 birds of 13 species were recaptured, and 6 birds of 6 species were unbanded. A total of 189 individuals were processed. This constitutes a decrease in captures of 36% from 2024. The topmost frequently banded and recaptured species were Song Sparrow (23), American Robin (18), Dark-eyed Junco (18) and Swainson's Thrush (16). Banding highlights included two female Black-headed Grosbeaks, a Hairy Woodpecker (aged After Third Year), and two Yellow Warblers. We recaptured a Red-breasted Sapsucker that was banded in 2023, then aged Third Year. Of the total number of birds banded, recaptured and unbanded (189), 49% were hatch year (HY). For newly banded birds, 87 of 136 (64%) were HY.

Concurrently with banding procedures, 69 species were observed on site throughout the season. Highlights include Common Nighthawks seen and heard overhead in the early morning on five out of seven sessions, a Hutton's Vireo was observed feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird fledgling, and a Cooper's Hawk catching a passerine in a tree near the banding station.

Background

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program was established in 1989 by The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) in California, USA. The program was designed to standardize collection of demographic data (vital rates) of North American landbirds. Analyses of MAPS data provide critical information relating to landbird ecology that can be applied to conservation and management initiatives.

The purpose of the MAPS project is to inventory breeding songbird populations using standardized methodology, and to record sightings of other species occurring at these locations to facilitate comparisons of populations and avian diversity at the site with those in similar habitats across North America. The data is submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada (banding), Birds Canada (banding) and The Institute of Bird Populations (banding, observation, breeding status, and habitat structure) to be made available to researchers and others.

MAPS data collection is a collaborative effort involving a network of bird mist nets and banding stations run by government agencies, non-government organizations, and individuals, throughout North America. Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) staff and volunteers have collected data for MAPS since 2003. The southern Vancouver Island banding stations at Rocky Point and Royal Roads University served as RPBO's MAPS sites until 2009 when Witty's Lagoon Regional Park was added and monitoring at Royal Roads was discontinued. In 2011, MAPS at Rocky Point was discontinued, and a second site was established at Madrona Farm in Saanich, BC. Monitoring at Madrona Farm was discontinued after 2019. In 2021 we started a new MAPS site at Power To Be on Prospect Lake. These five stations have provided data for over 200 species in previous monitoring years.

The Power To Be site is a 78-hectare former golf course, now leased to Power To Be by the owners. Power To Be is a non-profit organization that connects people with nature and seeks to remove cognitive, social, and physical barriers to the outdoors. Staff and clients primarily use trails and cart ways to access low-impact outdoor recreational activities. Access is by permission only.

This summary report includes data collected at Power To Be in 2025. A summary report has also been prepared for our MAPS site at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park in Metchosin.

Site Description

The banding station at Power To Be (PTOB) is accessed via 4633 Prospect Lake Road in Victoria, BC. The RPBO MAPS banding operation nets are set up in each of the main three habitats on the property. Formerly cut fairways are largely left to grow uninhibited, and the woodlands and forests are left as is, except for a network of trails and old cart paths. There is a variety of native and introduced vegetation in all habitats. The dominant habitat is second-growth Douglas-fir forest with various sub-dominant trees including grand fir, red alder and bigleaf maple. The graminoid old fairways are a mixture of introduced grasses and scattered herbs. There are a few lone mature Douglas-fir left over from the original forest cover. Nets 1-5 are adjacent to, or slightly inside the riparian willow - red alder wetland. Introduced willows dominate the wetland canopy (Figure 1).



Location: V L C T

Form H0: MAPS Station Map

Station: P T O R

Date: (m/d/y) 02 / 04 / 2024

Habitat types (>=5% cover of station)

A Second Growth
Douglas Fir (I.A.B.N.a) 60%

B Graminoid old fairways
(V.A.B.N.a) 25%

C Riparian wetland
(I.B.2.N.F) 15%

D _____

E _____

Indicate North with arrow

Indicate scale in meters
(normally 30m per block)

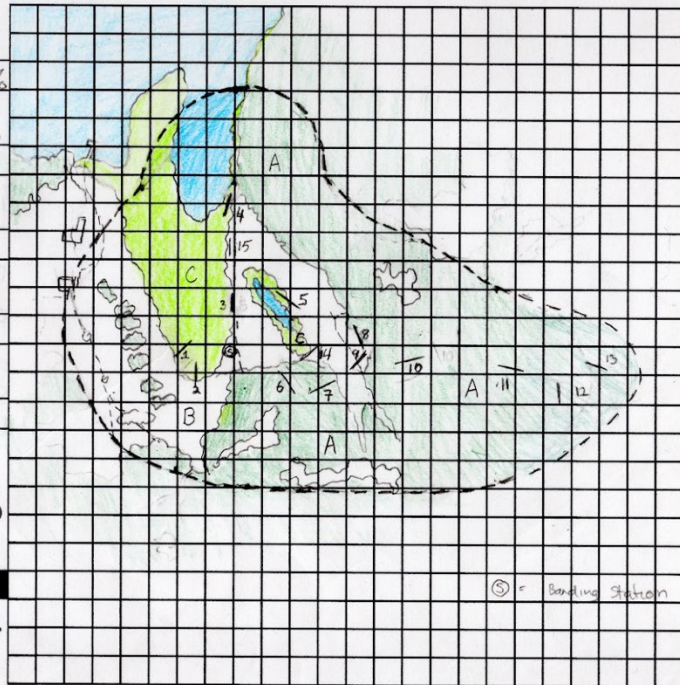
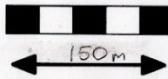
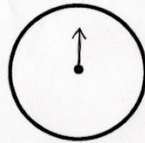


Figure 1. Map of the Power To Be MAPS site with habitat structure types.

Methodology

Methodology followed the MAPS Manual 2025 Protocol (DeSante et al. 2025). Landbirds were captured in mist nets and banded during standardized sampling sessions conducted once in every ten-day period during the nesting season, from 2 June to 4 August 2025. The safe handling and banding of birds followed the applicable sections of Rocky Point Bird Observatory's Field Protocol (RPBO 2022) and the MAPS Manual 2025 Protocol (DeSante et al. 2025). A component of the RPBO protocol is the Bander's Code of Ethics developed by the North American Banding Council, which emphasizes bird safety over data collection (NABC Revised 2021).

Each sampling session involved the use of fifteen mist nets (12m x 2.8m, with 30mm mesh size; Figure 2) for a six-hour period commencing at dawn. If necessary, nets were closed in poor weather if winds exceeded 15 km/hour or if there was significant precipitation. Nets were checked every 30 minutes, or more frequently if weather conditions warranted. This year there were no net closures. Captured birds were removed from the nets and taken to a central location for processing. Each bird was then identified by species, assigned an age class according to criteria compiled by Pyle (second edition 2022) and banded with an aluminum U.S.

Fish and Wildlife leg band with a unique nine-digit number. A series of morphometric measurements was collected from each bird including wing chord, stage of breeding development, amount of fat deposit, age of each feather tract, feather wear, and mass. Sex and age were determined, if possible, in accordance with criteria in the MAPS Manual 2025 protocol. Date, time, and capture-net code were also recorded. Once processed, local-aged birds incapable of sustained flight were released near their capture net. Flocks of mixed ages captured simultaneously in the same net were released together to facilitate regrouping of family units.

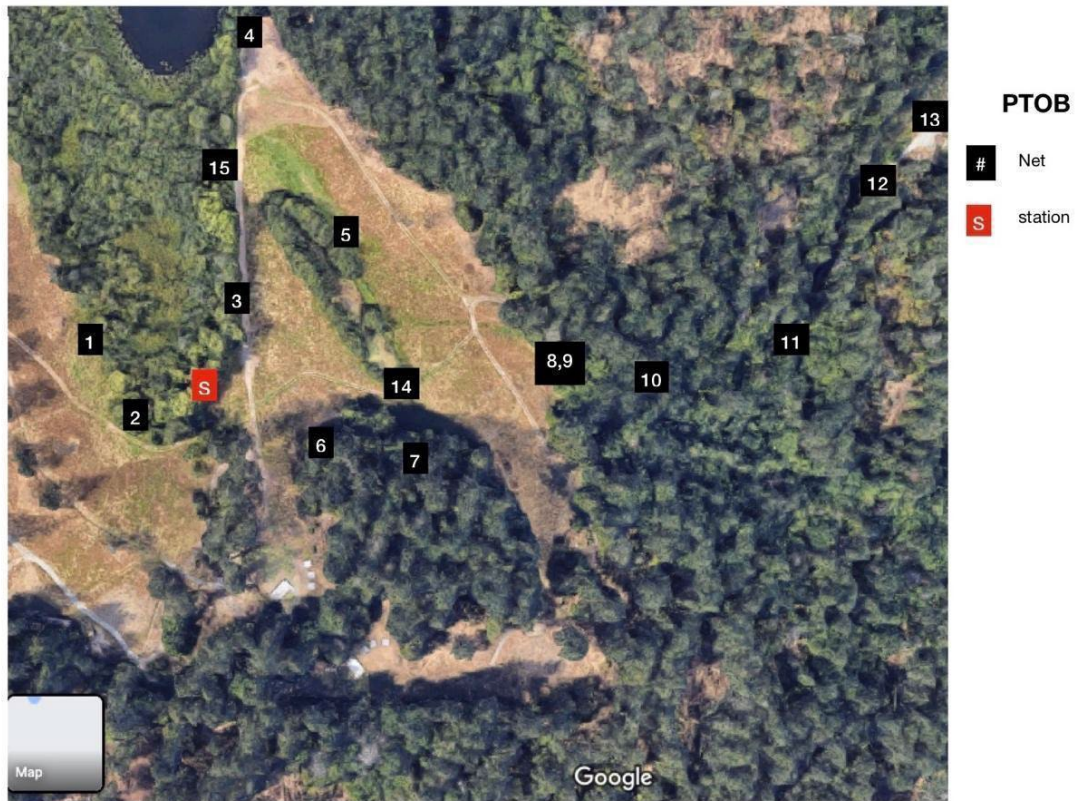


Figure 2. Map of the Power To Be MAPS site.

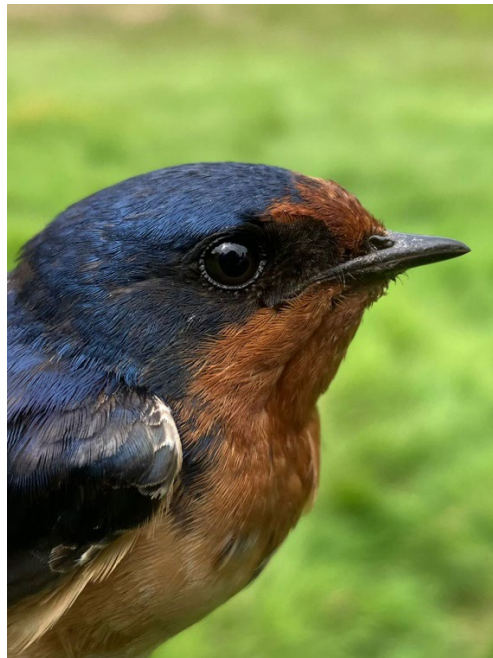
Breeding status of each species encountered at Power To Be was determined using multiple criteria. During each session, staff and volunteers observed bird behaviour and evidence of breeding birds. A bird is considered a breeder at the site if clear evidence, such as a nest or recent fledgling is found, but also if other related behaviours such as territorial singing or carrying food are observed over an extended period. Breeding status is not limited to a single session or season but rather is determined by observations over all MAPS periods. Recapture of an adult bird more than seven days after original banding is used as an indicator that the bird is on breeding territory.

Results

2025 was the fifth season of MAPS data collection at PTOB. A total of seven sampling days were conducted between 6 June and 4 August (Table 1). Nets did not require closure for adverse weather conditions. However, on 26 July, nets 12 and 13 had been taken down, likely by a bear, and we only had one replacement for net 12 that day. A new net was put up for net 13 on the final day. This resulted in a total of 624 net hours for the season. A total of 189 birds of 30 species were captured (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1. Daily summary of 2025 mist net effort and total captures at Power To Be. New captures per net hour do not include repeat captures of the same banding day.

Date	New	Recaptured	Unbanded	Total	Net Hours	New per net hour
Period 4, June 6	22	10	0	32	90.00	0.24
Period 5, June 14	18	9	2	29	90.00	0.20
Period 6, June 25	25	10	1	36	90.00	0.28
Period 7, July 3	22	11	2	35	90.00	0.24
Period 8, July 15	15	2	0	17	90.00	0.17
Period 9, July 26	13	4	1	18	84.00	0.15
Period 10, August 3	21	1	0	22	90.00	0.23
Total	136	47	6	189	624.00	0.22



Barn Swallow, Power To Be, 2025.

Photo: Max Hellicar.

Table 2. Summary of 2025 captures by species and capture category at Power To Be. The top species banded are highlighted in **bold**.

Species	New	Recaptured	Unbanded	Grand Total
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	1
American Robin	10	7	1	18
Anna's Hummingbird	2	0	1	3
Barn Swallow	1	0	0	1
Bewick's Wren	5	2	1	8
Black-headed Grosbeak	2	0	0	2
Brown Creeper	3	2	0	5
Bushtit	10	0	0	10
Cedar Waxwing	2	0	0	2
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	10	3	0	13
Chipping Sparrow	2	1	1	4
Common Yellowthroat	7	0	0	6
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	12	6	0	18
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	2	0	0	2
Northern House Wren	2	0	0	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	2	0	9
Pine Siskin	1	0	0	1
Purple Finch	3	0	0	3
Red-breasted Sapsucker	0	1	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	0	1	9
Rufous Hummingbird	8	0	0	8
Song Sparrow	15	7	1	23
Spotted Towhee	8	2	0	10
Swainson's Thrush	4	12	0	16
Western Flycatcher	2	0	0	2
White-crowned Sparrow (Puget Sound)	1	0	0	1
Willow Flycatcher	4	1	0	5
Wilson's Warbler	2	1	0	3
Yellow Warbler	2	0	0	2
Totals	136	47	6	189

All birds that were captured and processed were categorized as new bands, recaptures, or unbanded. Of the 189 total captures, 72% were newly banded birds, 25% were recaptures, having already been banded, and 3.2% were unbanded. Of the 47 recaptures, 11 were same day (captured more than once during the same banding period). RPBO achieved an average of 0.22 newly banded birds per net hour (Table 1). All species captured were regularly observed in the area.

Table 3. Proportion of birds by age at Power To Be, 2025. Recaptured includes same day.

Age	New	Proportion of new	Recaptured	Proportion of recaptured	Total proportion
HY	81	59.7%	3	6.4%	46%
AHY	3	2.2%	0		1.6%
SY	36	26.5%	19	40%	29.1%
ASY	15	11%	24	50.1%	20.6%
ATY	1	.7%	1	2.1	1.1%



*Swainson's Thrush recapture, Power To Be, 2025.
Photo: Jannaca Chick.*

Of the 47 birds that were recaptured, 27 were banded in prior years:

- 2 were banded in 2021 (4.2% of recaptures)
- 3 were banded in 2022 (6.4%)
- 10 were banded in 2023 (21.4%)
- 12 in 2024 (25.5%)

20 birds (42.5%) were same year recaptures, of which 11 were same day recaptures. Four birds were recaptured during MAPS from the RPBO Banding Workshop held at PTOB in March 2025: two Oregon Juncos, one Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and one American Robin. During the banding workshop, a female Rufous Hummingbird banded at PTOB at MAPS on May 31, 2022, was recaptured. This is a significant recapture of this long-distance migrant. The recaptures of birds banded in 2021 to 2024 indicate the importance of this site as a breeding location.

Six birds were released unbanded, either due to escaping or the bander forgot to band them. One Anna’s Hummingbird died suddenly while being processed, likely from shock. One Chestnut-backed Chickadee had a broken leg prior to being taken out of the net. The leg was amputated, then the bird put in the hospital for approximately 15 minutes before being released. One Yellow Warbler had a growth just below the furcula. Photos were taken and sent to WildArc; this growth was a “cutaneous horn” which is compressed keratin.

This was our fifth year banding at this site and recaptures indicate site fidelity of both migrants and resident species (Table 4). Some of the recapture highlights were one Red-breasted Sapsucker banded in 2023 as a Third Year, five Swainson’s Thrushes from all four previous years of banding including one which has been recaptured every year since 2022, and a Brown Creeper from 2021.

Table 4. Recapture history of birds captured at Power To Be in 2025.

Year banded	Recaptures (including banding date)	Species
2021	3	1 Swainson’s Thrush (ASY M in 2021)
	3	1 Brown Creeper (HY in 2021)
2022	5	1 Swainson’s Thrush (HY U)
	3	1 Chipping Sparrow (SY M)
	2	1 Chestnut-backed Chickadee (HY U)
2023	6	1 American Robin (SY M)
	3	1 Red-breasted Sapsucker (TY)
	5	2 Swainson’s Thrush (both ASY F)
	3	1 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) (SY F)
2024	4	2 Orange-crowned Warbler (HY U, SY M)
	2	1 Brown Creeper (AHY U)
	2	1 Swainson’s Thrush (ASY F)
	2	1 Chestnut-backed Chickadee (ASY F)
	2	1 Bewick’s Wren (HY U)
	2	1 Willow Flycatcher (HY U)
	6	2 Song Sparrow (HY U)

In 2025, 66 species of birds were observed on the Power To Be site. The updated IBP 2024 Breeding Status for PTOB after three years of monitoring is shown in Table 5. 25 species were determined to be breeders, 19 were transient (in breeding range, but not breeding at the MAPS site), 30 species were occasional breeders (<½ years), 6 species were usual breeders (>½, not all years), and 2 species were migrant (Table 5). Two new species were observed this year: Hammond’s Flycatcher and American Kestrel.

Table 5. Breeding status of birds observed at Power To Be 2021 to 2024

Species	Breeding Status	Species	Breeding Status
American Crow	Occasional	Hutton’s Vireo	Occasional
American Goldfinch	Breeder	MacGillivray’s Warbler	Usual
American Robin	Breeder	Mallard	Transient
Anna’s Hummingbird	Usual	Marsh Wren	Occasional
Audubon’s Yellow-Rumped Warbler	Occasional	Mourning Dove	Transient
Bald Eagle	Occasional	Northern House Wren	Usual
Bank Swallow	Migrant	Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	Occasional
Barn Swallow	Breeder	Northern Pygmy-owl	Transient
Barred Owl	Occasional	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Transient
Belted Kingfisher	Occasional	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Occasional
Bewick’s Wren	Breeder	Orange-crowned Warbler	Breeder
Black-headed Grosbeak	Breeder	Osprey	Transient
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Occasional	Pacific Wren	Occasional
Brown Creeper	Breeder	Pileated Woodpecker	Occasional
Brown-headed Cowbird	Breeder	Pine Siskin	Occasional
Bushtit	Usual	Purple Finch	Breeder
California Gull	Migrant	Purple Martin	Transient
California Quail	Occasional	Red Crossbill	Occasional
Canada Goose	Breeder	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Breeder
Cassin’s Vireo	Occasional	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Usual
Cedar Waxwing	Breeder	Red-tailed Hawk	Occasional
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Breeder	Red-winged Blackbird	Occasional
Chipping Sparrow	Breeder	Rufous Hummingbird	Breeder

Species	Breeding Status
Common Loon	Transient
Cliff Swallow	Transient
Common Nighthawk	Occasional
Common Raven	Occasional
Common Yellowthroat	Breeder
Cooper's Hawk	Occasional
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	Breeder
Downy Woodpecker	Breeder
Eurasian Collared Dove	Transient
European Starling	Transient
Evening Grosbeak	Transient
Glaucous-winged Gull	Transient
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Transient
Great Blue Heron	Transient
Great Horned Owl	Occasional
Greater Yellowlegs	Transient
Hairy Woodpecker	Occasional
House Finch	Occasional

Species	Breeding Status
Spotted Towhee	Breeder
Song Sparrow	Breeder
Steller's Jay	Transient
Swainson's Thrush	Breeder
Tree Swallow	Transient
Townsend's Warbler	Occasional
Turkey Vulture	Transient
Violet-green Swallow	Breeder
Virginia Rail	Transient
Warbling Vireo	Occasional
Western Flycatcher	Occasional
Western Tanager	Breeder
White-crowned (Puget Sound) Sparrow	Breeder
Willow Flycatcher	Usual
Wilson's Warbler	Breeder
Wood Duck	Occasional
Yellow Warbler	Breeder
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Occasional

The Bird Genoscape Project

The Bird Genoscape Project (BGP) harnesses the power of genomics to connect bird populations across North America. A genoscape creates a map of genetic variation across the breeding range of a species. Genoscapes can then be used to track breeding populations to their respective wintering grounds and the migratory pathways in between. By harnessing recent advances in next-generation sequencing, they can use the DNA contained in a single feather to scan the genome of a bird and identify base pairs that are unique to each bird. Unique combinations of base pairs tend to cluster together and are strong predictors of geographically separated populations. In 2009, with advances in genomics, Kristen Ruegg and Tom Smith created the Bird Genoscape Project with the goal of developing connectivity maps for at least 100 species of North American migratory birds.

Amanda Carpenter of Colorado State University is the Lab and Collections Manager for BGP. Amanda requested feather samples be taken during RPBO's 2025 MAPS banding season. Two tail feathers from each bird are collected (one central R1 and one outer R6). All feathers were placed in BGP envelopes with metadata completed. The samples have been sent to Amanda Carpenter via BirdsCanada.

This season at PTOB we collected 21 feather samples from: American Goldfinch (1), American Robin (1), Bewick's Wren (1), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (1), Chipping Sparrow (1), Common Yellowthroat (1), Northern House Wren (1), Orange-crowned Warbler (1), Oregon Junco (3), White-crowned Sparrow (1), Purple Finch (1), Song Sparrow (5), Willow Flycatcher (2), Wilson's Warbler (1).

Kimberly Parno, Swainson's Thrush Project, Queen's University

In early 2025, Kimberly Parno and Dr. Vicki Friesen of Queen's University, Kingston, ON, reached out to RPBO to ask for assistance in securing blood samples for Swainson's Thrush on breeding territory for Kimberly Parno's research project.

Kimberly Parno is working on her master's project with Dr. Vicki Friesen at Queen's University. This project investigates the roles of gene flow on the genetic adaptation in breeding populations of Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) in western North America. Kim is looking at the evolutionary histories of different populations, mapping the adaptive potential of these species across the landscape and identifying the genomic vulnerability of different populations in order to inform conservation priorities for this species. She will be using whole genome sequencing to compare populations in Haida Gwaii, Vancouver Island, mainland B.C., Alaska, and Washington. There is a sampling gap in Vancouver Island, so Kim required blood samples from approximately 10 birds on breeding territory. Kim and Vicki reached out to Jannaca Chick and Ann Nightingale for assistance in obtaining samples during our MAPS program. Max Hellicar, our Migration Bander-in-charge for 2025, has blood sampling on his banding permit, so he was able to assist Kim with the sampling.

Kim and Max obtained 1 sample from WILA, 4 samples from PTOB and 1 sample from Hummingbird Hill. The remaining 4 samples were obtained during banding operations with Dr. Eric Demers of Vancouver Island University at Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo.



Mark Byrne & Skyler Freeman, Power To Be, 2025.

Photo: Jannaca Chick.

Comments & Recommendations

The fifth year of the MAPS program at Power To Be saw a total of 189 birds of 30 species processed. This constitutes a decrease of 36% as compared to 2024 when 292 birds were processed; 2023 had a decrease of 17% from the previous year, 2022.

We captured both breeding and juvenile birds. The overall percentage of hatch year birds was 49%, including new birds and recaptures. There was definite evidence of breeding birds in the area. It appears to have been a good breeding year for both Red-breasted Nuthatches and Bushtits; both MAPS sites caught several young and adults of these species. Our banding indicates that PTOB is an important breeding area for Swainson's Thrush which have shown great site fidelity during our five years of banding. Orange-crowned Warbler (OCWA) were in the top 3 species banded and recaptured last year (37), but in 2025 there was a 76% decrease in the captures of OCWA (9). It is recommended that the population of this warbler be monitored over the coming years, as numbers were also down at our other MAPS station at Witty's Lagoon.

Collaboration with the PTOB organization provides an excellent opportunity to reach a section of society that may not otherwise be exposed to birds or bird banding. This provides diverse opportunities for RPBO to promote interest in birds, bird monitoring, and bird banding. The Power To Be organization and staff are extremely supportive of our banding activities, and we anticipate future education and outreach collaborations together.

This year we were able to host several PTOB groups, with a total of 59 visitors coming to the banding station, including both staff and clients. Their visiting client groups were TT Access Program, Landscaping Cohort, Ferns, and Sci BV Overnight. All expressed great interest in and enthusiasm for our project. We were also visited by Ann Nightingale and Gaylia Lassner on the first day of banding. On our final day of MAPS, Shawn Steele and his son Sawyer spent the day with us. Sixty-three visitors came to PTOB. When we have visitors, we show them the banding process and data collection, how the mist nets work, and allow participants to safely release the birds from their hands.

On 20 August 2025, RPBO (Jannaca Chick, Cathy Reader, Acacia Spencer-Hills) hosted a special bird banding demonstration at the request of PTOB staff from Vancouver, Marin Puffer and Jen Read. They brought a group of families with children with rare diseases from Vancouver for a camping weekend at the Prospect Lake site. We had left MAPS nets 1, 2, and 3 on site to use for this occasion and seeded the net lanes three times over 10 days in preparation. A group of 10 clients (adults and children) plus three staff came to our pop-up station for one hour, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Most of the children were around 5 years old. We caught 6 birds of 4 species: 2 HY Swainson's Thrushes, 2 HY Wilson's Warblers (male and female), one HY female Common Yellowthroat and one HY Spotted Towhee. We had both children and parents release the birds. The event was very successful, both staff and clients were delighted. The total number of visitors to our PTOB site for passerine banding was 72 this year, the highest number to date.

The MAPS protocol advises that a five- to ten-year period of data collection is required before meaningful analysis can be initiated by IBP. RPBO intends to continue with MAPS banding at this site. It appears that as the vegetation reverts to a natural state, more birds are breeding on this property. A site assessment should be done in the future.

The MAPS program provides an excellent opportunity for banders and volunteers to improve their skills. This year, new volunteers were able to join us as scribe/helpers, assist with net setup and takedown, and begin extractor training. Mark Byrne volunteered as a Bander Trainee.

The MAPS program contributed to 2 scientific studies this year. RPBO should continue to look for studies that we can participate in, as well as assist graduate students or government agencies with projects.

26 July we discovered that nets 12 and 13 had been pulled down by large animal activity, likely bears. We have seen Black Bear most years at PTOB and to ensure the safety of volunteers it is recommended that two volunteers with bear spray and air horns are sent out to check the back nets whenever there is a possibility of bears in the area. We also alert the staff at PTOB to the presence of bears on the property. Going forward we should raise nets 11, 12, 13 as high as possible at closing to prevent future issues with bear or deer taking down nets.

Over the seven sessions, including site setup and takedown, RPBO had 28 volunteers assisting for a total of 340 volunteer hours.

It is recommended that RPBO continue to use Power to Be as a MAPS site.



Final day of MAPS, Power To Be, 2025.

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