MINUTES
WildResearch Annual General Meeting 2020

**Date:** February 22, 2020

**Location:** VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, B.C.

**Start:** 6:00-6:45 PM

**In Attendance:**

*WildResearch Board of Directors:* Jay Brogan (President), Angela Bond (Vice President), Courtney Lahue (Secretary), Florian Reurink (Treasurer), Azim Shariff (Director at Large), Vinci Au (Director at Large), Andrew Huang (Director at Large) and Melanie Wilson (Director at Large).

*WildResearch Members:* Chloe Boynton, Alain Boisclair-Joly, Kelly Sekhon, Quinn McCallum, Jacqueline Huard, Wally Fletcher, Alan McKenzie, Donna McKenzie, Siim Karu, Devin de Zwaan, Rose Marie Leong, Catherine Denny, James MacKenzie, Seth Bennett, Erinn Johnson, Cassandra Holt, Anna Sleurikhind, Matthias Bieber, Olga Landsdorp and Nisarg Chandhari.

**Regrets:** Virginia Noble-Dalton (Director at Large), Myles Lamont (Director at Large) and Kiirsti Owen (Director at Large).

# Welcome and introductions – Jay Brogan

* Meeting was called to order at 18:10 PST
* Welcome: local introductions of board members
* Additions to the agenda? - None

# Adoption of Agenda – Jay Brogan

**Motion:to adopt the agenda.**

**Moved by: Alan McKenzie**

**Seconded by: Jacqueline Huard**

**Decision: Motion carried unanimously**

# Approval of the minutes from the 2019 agm – Jay Brogan

* Available at: http://wildresearch.ca/about-us/resources/

**Motion:to approve the WildResearch 2019 AGM Minutes**

**Moved by: Courtney Lahue**

**Seconded by: Melanie Wilson**

**Decision: Motion carried unanimously**

# President’s report

* Presented by President Jay Brogan
	+ Key notes:
		- Jay Brogan to be stepping down as President and Angela Bond to be stepping in.
		- Courtney Lahue to be stepping down as Secretary and Kiirsti Owen to be stepping in (temporary).
		- Jay Brogan and Andrew Huang to be stepping down from the Board of Directors.
* See Appendix A

# Treasurer’s report

* Presented by Treasurer Florian Reurink
* See Appendix B

**Motion:to approve the WildResearch 2019 Treasurer’s Report**

**Moved by: Alan McKenzie**

**Seconded by: Devin de Zwaan**

**Decision: Motion carried unanimously**

# Committee Reports

* Presented by Committee Chairs: Andrew Huang (IIBO) and Jacqueline Huard (MSOC)
* See Appendix C and D

# Elections

Jay Brogan – 15 minutes

* The following are WildResearch members in good standing and are nominated for the positions listed on the Board of Directors for 2020:
	+ President: Angela Bond
	+ Vice President: -
	+ Treasurer: Florian Reurink
	+ Secretary: Kiirsti Owen
	+ Director at Large: Courtney Lahue
	+ Director at Large: Myles Lamont
	+ Director at Large: Virginia Noble
	+ Director at Large: Vinci Au
	+ Director at Large: Azim Shariff
	+ Director at Large: Melanie Wilson
	+ Director at Large: Devin de Zwaan
	+ Director at Large: Amanda Edworthy
	+ Director at Large: Quinn McCallum

**Motion:to approve the 2020 nominations for the WildResearch Board of Directors**

**Moved by: Donna McKenzie**

**Seconded by: Jacqueline Huard**

**Decision: Motion carried unanimously**

# Adjournment

**Motion:to adjourn the 2020 Annual General Meeting**

**Moved by: Donna McKenzie**

**Seconded by: Seth Bennett**

**Decision: Motion carried unanimously**

**Please join us after the meeting for our 10th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party from 6:45 – 10:30 PM!**

APPENDIX A

WildResearch President’s Report for 2019

President’s Report 2019

By Jason M. Brogan

WildResearch is celebrating 10 years of operation. It began as a few biologists with an idea to track migration of birds along a specific flyway, conduct conservation-based monitoring, and surveys programs. WildResearch has had the staying power thanks to 10 years of dedication and had found it’s footing among naturalist groups and research organizations.

We currently have 100 active members who have participated in: extracting and banding birds at IIBO (Iona Island Bird Observatory), using call playback to detect Cooper’s hawks around the lower mainland, and listening for nighthawks across Canada.

At IIBO, 2019 marked the busiest year with whopping 7047 total birds banded. This equated to about 110 birds banded per day. There were 82 volunteers with a total of 2087 hours given (that is almost 3 months!) to help monitor migration during this year. There was also a notable increase in visitors - with a total of 961 people coming to the banding station. That’s almost double the number of visitors in 2018 and almost 4 times the visitors in 2017 (2018 – 505 visitors and and 2017 - 201). This increase was not coincidental. Collaboration with the City of Richmond’s *Doors Open Richmond* and Metro Vancouver Regional Park’s *Wings Over Iona*, brought bus loads of people to Iona Regional Park. As well, IIBO was used to support research projects such as Quinn McCallum who is comparing the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes of the Golden-crowned Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow to study their hybridization and speciation. While Finola Fogarty is studying patterns of genetic divergence and variation between the three subspecies of Orange-crowned Warbler.

The Nightjar Survey is now operating in 10 provinces and territories with the new addition of Manitoba. Coverage of NFLD, Quebec, and Nunavut would complete the entire country. This program has grown beyond WildResearch’s capacity and will transitioned on February 26, 2020 to be under the management of Bird Studies Canada. Program Manager Elly Knight “is beyond thrilled and proud to share that what was once was just a little nightjar program (with 3 survey routes conducted in the inaugural year) has grown up to become the Canadian Nightjar Survey, and has a found a new, permanent home at Birds Canada. The WildResearch Nightjar Survey has shown how valuable nocturnal monitoring is for nightjar conservation, and the program joins an important suite of long-term citizen science surveys that are supported by Environment and Climate Change Canada”. We are grateful to the Elly Knight and all of the regional managers and volunteers for making this program such a huge success.

The Urban Hawk monitoring program, which provides an estimate of relative abundance of Cooper’s hawks, had 14 quadrats surveyed by 13 volunteers. There were a total of six cooper’s hawk found in five of the quadrats for a relative abundance of 0.11 hawks per km2, or 0.027 hawks per call playback station.

Beyond our programs, we continue to provide our members and the community with educational events and opportunities. Multiple Seminar Series, highlighting recent research, have been delivered around Vancouver and Burnaby. These will continue through 2020 and beyond. WildResearch organized and ran the Christmas Bird Count in Ambleside. And we continue to deliver the Beginner and Intermediate Bird Banding workshops, QGIS, and R workshops with many interested participants. WildResearch will continue to offer educational workshops and events, and find research opportunities through its programs.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as President and happy to be passing on the torch to Angela Bond. I’ve been on the board of directors for eight year and have had the honour of working with brilliant, creative people throughout my time here. I look forward to hearing about WildResearch’s successes!

APPENDIX B

WildResearch Treasurer’s Report of 2019 Finance



APPENDIX C

WildResearch Iona Island Bird Observatory 2019 Committee Report

WildResearch Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO) 2019 Program Update

Jan 24, 2018

# Program Goals

IIBO contributes to all 3 organizational goals.

1. **Contribute to conservation science**: IIBO determines the abundance and diversity of migrants that use the Iona Beach Regional Park (hereafter: Iona) as a stopover site; IIBO monitors the arrival dates of spring and fall migrants and the departure dates of birds that migrate north to breed or south to overwinter.
2. **Provide our members with training and education in conservation science**: IIBO provides a positive learning environment for volunteers, encouraging the developing of field ornithology skills (e.g. species ID, banding, extraction from nets).
3. **Conduct conservation outreach**: To maintain a focus on public education and outreach on avian conservation via on-site demonstration and social media.

# Season successes

**Breakdown of # of species and individuals caught**

**Total # of birds captured: 7047** – *the* busiest year for IIBO!

* Spring
	+ Total: 2858 (2178 new captures; 545 recaps; 135 unprocessed)
	+ Over 48 days (~60 birds per day)
	+ In contrast to 2018, which caught 2197 birds in the spring (~50 birds a day)
* Fall:
	+ 4192 (3412 new captures; 752 recaps; 28 unprocessed)
	+ Over 38 days (~110 birds per day!)
	+ In contrast to 2018, which caught 3509 birds in the fall (~100 birds per day)
	+ Compared to previous years:
		- 2015: 1476 (22 days) – 67 birds per day
		- 2016: 1232 (22 days) – 56 birds per day
		- 2017: 2806 (29 days) – 97 birds per day

**Total # of species captured: 57**

* Most abundant (all warblers):
	+ YEWA: 1338
	+ YRWA: 1285
	+ OCWA: 612
	+ WIWA: 512
	+ Special mention: CAHU, COHA, LAZB, DUFL

**Breakdown of volunteer contribution and visitors**

**Total # of volunteers and volunteer hours: 82 volunteers, 2087 hours**

* Spring: 57 volunteers, 1420 hours
* Fall: 41 volunteers, 667 hours
* Significant increase compared to 2018: 71 volunteers, 1687 hours

**Education & Outreach Program**

* Total: 961 people visited IIBO
	+ Substantial increase compared to 505 in 2018, and 201 in 2017
* Spring: Canadian Wildlife Service, Tupper Secondary, Nature Kids BC, UBC Wildlife Society, Vancouver Parks, Dillon Consulting
* Fall: Nature Vancouver, Oak Wisdom Learning, UBC Ornithology class,
* Large part of this due to collaboration with local outreach events held by City of Richmond (*Doors Open Richmond)* and MVRP (*Wings Over Iona*).

**Banding Workshops**

**Beginners banding workshop – April 14, 2019.**

This season began with the Bird Banding Workshop on Sunday, April 14th. We had 27 participants this year eager to learn everything from handling their first bird, to fine tuning the aging process of a complex moult. It is really satisfying to see how birds, migration, and conservation are a universal passion for many nature enthusiasts. We started early morning, and after going over the basics of setting up mist-nets, the participant had the chance to practice handling, extracting, banding and aging birds. Luckily, the rain held off and we enjoyed a cloudy day that broke out into sun later on, producing the perfect conditions to capture a decent number of birds representing several species.

**Intermediate banding workshop – Nov 24, 2019**

This year we partnered with Wild Bird Trust to bring members an Intermediate Banding Workshop at Maplewood Flats. We had 12 participants who were taught by experts Catherine Jardine and Julian Heavyside. Attendees were invited to try their hand at aging and practice their knowledge of complex moults by looking at numerous wing mounts. As part of the workshop, we also had the privilege of using >100 bird specimens provided by the Canadian Wildlife Service, over half of which are warblers. Participants were able to examine each specimen closely as the experts analyzed their wings and molt patterns with them.

**Other Exciting Things**

**UBC Research Projects Supported by IIBO**

* **Quinn McCallum** – Comparing the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes of the Golden-crowned Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow to study their hybridization and speciation.
* **Finola Fogarty** – Studying patterns of genetic divergence and variation between the three subspecies of Orange-crowned Warbler.

**IIBO was featured in the Air Canada magazine! (see photos below)**

**Final step in joining the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.**

# Season challenges

Things that did not go as well this season:

* Data management
* Securing funding.
* Hut leaking again.

Suggestions for how program can be approved (in correspondence to the 3 bullet points above):

* Provide clearer instructions, guidance, and overseeing throughout the season to ensure data is managed and entered properly.
* Continue to seek funding on all fronts.
* Fix the hut – get Alan involved.

# Other things

2019 grants received:

* City of Richmond (?)
* Canada Summer Job (Service Canada)
* Port of Vancouver

What’s going on in 2020?

* Devin de Zwaan (board member) will be analyzing banding data from Iona and other banding stations in BC.

Budget for 2018:

* Approximately $22,000 for hiring banders, purchasing station tools

APPENDIX D

WildResearch Member’s Services Committee 2019 Report

WildResearch - Members Services/Outreach Committee
Annual Update Report 2019

**Chair:**

Rotating

**Members:**

Courtney Lahue, out-going Chair / Treasurer

Jacqueline Huard, in-coming Chair/Treasurer

Angela Bond, Board Representative

Azim Shariff, Board Representative

Vinci Au, Newsletter Coordinator/ Board Representative

Kiirsti Owen, Marketing Coordinator/ Board Representative

Chloe Boynton, Member at Large

James Mackenzie, Member at Large/Instagram coordinator

Jesse Kemp, Member at Large

Virginia Noble, Member at Large

# Accomplishments

The Membership Services Committee oversees membership and membership-related events, merchandise, the newsletter, social media, emails, and thank you cards for the organization. The Outreach Committee formed in 2018 to plan, organize and facilitate WildResearch events and workshops. In 2019, these committees were joined together now know as the Membership Services and Outreach Committee (MSOC).

WildResearch’s current membership as of December 2019 stands at **100 active members**. Part of our ongoing tasks include recruiting new members and volunteers, processing memberships, reporting progress to BC Nature, polling/surveying about membership satisfaction, tracking MSC financials, scheduling volunteers, and selling WildResearch merchandise.

Similar to past years, the MSC successfully planned and orchestrated the previous AGM (2019) in February and is currently planning the next AGM (2020). We welcomed two new members to our committee, including Jacqueline, and James. We have increased our social media presence with the help of James, Kiirsti and Vinci and are now reaching out to over 1700 people on Facebook, 1000 on Twitter, 1200 through Instagram, and 100 on LinkedIn. James is running #songbirdsunday and #wingswednesday on Instgram that get good participation, Instagram stories get between 160-190 views and usually around 60-75 ‘engagements’ ie: guesses for the bird quiz’. Once the banding season starts, the focus will move back to birds in hand’. Our biweekly newsletters and continue to run the #whereswildresearch collection during the summer months to encourage members to sport their WildResearch swag while conducting field work.

# Expenses

The total budget allocated to the MSC in 2019 was **$3590.00.**

Funds in 2019 were allocated to hosting the AGM/VAP and included:

* Venue rental: $200
* Food and drink: $301.60
* Recuperated costs: $150 (estimated – from Seminar Series talks)
* Total spent: **$351.62**

WildResearch successfully solicited donations for the AGM worth approximately $2002.3 from 15 organizations.

Merchandise has been well-managed by Angela Bond. No new merchandise was purchased by December 2019, but the MSC sold merchandise throughout the year and generated **$265** in revenue (this number is actually higher but we are waiting for an update from the IOC).

# Volunteer time

Meetings: 60 hours (6 meetings @ 2 hours each with ~5 people)

2018 AGM planning/prepping outside of meetings: 15 hours

Newletter: 104 hours (2 hours/week for 52 weeks)

Processing memberships: 60 hours (3 ho4urs/month)

**Total estimated hours: 250 hours**

#  Next Steps

The primary focus of the MSC over the next 3-6 months include planning and executing the 2020 AGM and planning our spring events.