

MINUTES

WildResearch Annual General Meeting 2026

Date: February 28, 2026

Location: VanDusen Gardens

Start: 11:30 (PST)

End: 12:30 (PST)

In Attendance:

Viktorija Juciūtė (President), Isaac Fillmore (Secretary), Angela Hansen (Director-at-Large), Vinci Au (Director-at-Large), Chloe Boynton (Director-at-Large), Alexandra Welch (Director-at-Large), Amy Lee, Richard Hanson. Stephen Partington, Erin Desaulniers, Kendra Bisbing, Ildiko Szabo, Jan Lowcock, Donna McKenzie, Alan McKenzie, Melanie Bejarano, Alex Wilson, Kelsey Nishimura, Justin Choi, Kelvin Yip, Mathieu Charette, Sofia Shivji

Welcome and Introductions – Viktorija Juciūtė

1. ADOPTION OF LAST YEAR’S MINUTES – Viktorija Juciūtė

Motion: to adopt the 2025 AGM minutes.

Moved by: Stephen Partington

Seconded by: Alan McKenzie

Decision: Motion carried unanimously

2. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Presented by President – Viktorija Juciūtė
 - Viktorija’s report highlighted the contributions from all our members to keep the organization running
 - Highlighted the challenges we had this year: solar panels breaking at the banding station, the financial challenges, etc
 - Viktorija also highlighted some wins from the year: bird-bag making party for the first time in years, our community fundraising effort for essential items at the banding station

- See Appendix A for the full President's Report

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Presented by President – Viktorija Juciūtė
 - All of the Treasurer's statements were made available online
 - Sara was unable to attend to present today
 - Viktorija highlighted line 4100 of the budget, and was very proud of our ability to be able to raise funds for the fixes needed at IIBO
- See Appendix B for the full Treasurer's Report

Motion: to pass the Treasurer's Report

Moved by: Alan McKenzie

Seconded by: Ildiko Szabo

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Membership Services and Outreach Committee Report prepared and presented by Vinci Au (see Appendix C)
- BC Nature and WildResearch Membership Report prepared and presented by Alexandra Welch (see Appendix D)
- Coopers Hawk Monitoring Program Report prepared and presented by Alexandra Welch (see Appendix E)
 - Alexandra thanks all the volunteers who went out to survey
 - The Urban Raptor Monitoring Program performed similarly to past years
 - Reaffirmed the mission of the project and how it aligns with WildResearch's core principles
 - Stephen Partington asked about the utility of eBird with respect to identifying Cooper's Hawks. Alexandra answered that it is a tool that we use and have a section in the methods where this can be tracked.
- BC Marsh Monitoring Project Report prepared by Sarah Town (see Appendix F)
- Iona Island Bird Observatory (see Appendix G)
- Research Committee (see Appendix H)

5. ELECTIONS

- The following are WildResearch members stepping down from the Board of Directors for 2026:
 - **Vice-President:** Devin de Zwaan
 - **Treasurer:** Sara Wells
 - **Secretary:** Isaac Fillmore
 - **Director-at-Large:** Eleanor O'Sullivan

- **Director-at-Large:** Sarah Town
- The following are WildResearch members being nominated for the Board of Directors for 2026:
 - **President:** Viktorija Juciūtė
 - **Treasurer:** Amy Lee
 - **Vice-President:** Angela Hansen (stepping away from the Director role)
 - **Director:** Richard Hanson
 - **Director:** Chloe Boynton (Re-election)
 - **Director:** Myles Lamont (Re-election)
 - **Director:** Vinci Au (stepping in as interim secretary)
- The following are WildResearch members in good standing and are nominated for the positions listed on the Board of Directors for 2026:
 - **Director-at-Large:** Alexandra Welch
 - **Director-at-Large:** Agraj Rathi

Motion: to approve the 2026 nominations for the WildResearch Board of Directors

Moved by: Donna McKenzie

Seconded by: Alan McKenzie

Decision: Motion carried unanimously

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES

Discussion

- Jan, a general member, commented that the membership increase would be relatively modest for working folks, and she felt that the Option B would be ideal
- Kelsey, a general member, commented agreeing with Jen, as she wants to see the organization flourish in the long term.

Option A Motion: to increase membership \$5 across the board for all Members

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Decision: not moved

Option B Motion: to increase membership at the rate of inflation with a reduced rate for students.

Moved by: Ildiko Szabo

Seconded by: Janet Lowcock

Decision: Motion carried unanimously

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 (PST).

APPENDIX A

WILDRESEARCH PRESIDENT'S 2025 REPORT

When I look back at WildResearch over the last year, two themes emerge: progress and sustainability.

As an organization, we achieved a great deal – even if, from the outside, some of the changes seem small. When I was first offered the President position, I was very honest: I felt confident I could maintain, but I wasn't sure I could drive. And I still think that was true. This year has not been about dramatic reinvention. It has been about care, stewardship, and giving space for our board and membership to shine. I am proud of that.

The first half of the year feels like a blur thanks to our gaming grant application. Although we did not receive the grant, I was incredibly proud of the work that went into it. Our documents, financial statements, and stories became clearer and stronger. I remember spending days reviewing financials to ensure everything we do is readable and transparent. But the heavy lifting, including the writing, organizing, and refining, was handled by Ellie, Vinci, Angela, Agraj, Sarah, and others who stepped up in big ways. This collective effort strengthened us, regardless of the outcome.

At the same time, we were facing serious challenges at the banding station. Our solar panels stopped functioning reliably. Our generators struggled to keep the data computer powered. Banders were handwriting data and entering it at home, which was a huge additional burden. From that challenge came action: fundraising for new generators, followed by efforts to repair and stabilize the banding hut itself. Now, we can seriously consider solutions for mold, wasp nests, dampness, and the long-term sustainability of the station. I am deeply grateful to the IIBO Committee, and especially Angela, for organizing work parties and driving a lot of the innovation efforts in IIBO. These work parties do more than maintain a building. They create opportunities for members who may not be able to band to contribute in tangible ways. That kind of inclusion is essential to who we are. I also want to highlight and thank the whole of IIBO committee who has been steadfast in making sure the banding station operates as well as it can.

Our community showed up in so many other ways this year. We held our first bird bag-making party since at least 2019. Ildiko generously guided many of us through it for the first time. Paula organized *Stories in Flight*, which I believe is our first collaborative project with the Musqueam Nation and is an incredible milestone. We welcomed two outstanding new Board members, Amy and Richard. Clare and Caitlin elevated our social media presence. Maria's artwork has been instrumental in our fundraising efforts. And members like Mike continue to offer ideas and steady encouragement for events they want to see succeed. All these contributions may look independent, but together they form something much bigger.

We also faced some difficult questions in our final quarter. Financial sustainability became a central focus. At the same time, I began thinking deeply about membership and engagement sustainability. WildResearch is a large and complex machine. It runs on volunteer time, passion, and care. Sustainability is not just about funding – it is about people. It is about making sure that participation feels possible,

meaningful, and energizing rather than exhausting. Community is not built by a president. It is built by its members.

I am so grateful to be part of such a vibrant, thoughtful, and generous group of people. Every bird bag sewn, every data sheet entered, every grant edited, every social post shared, every work party attended – these are the small acts that make WildResearch what it is.

If we have moved forward this year, even a little, it is because of you. My hope is that, like every year before us, we leave WildResearch just a tiny bit stronger, clearer, and more sustainable than we found it. Thank you for your trust, your energy, and your care for this community.

APPENDIX B

WILDRESEARCH TREASURER'S 2025 REPORT OF FINANCE

9:30 PM

02/10/26

Accrual Basis

WildResearch
Balance Sheet by Class
As of December 31, 2025

	01 - Iona Island BO	03 - BCMMP	100 - General	TOTAL
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Chequing/Savings				
1000 · Cash - Vancity				
1010 · Cash - Vancity - Operating	23,679.65	2,080.68	4,796.12	30,556.44
1012 · Cash - Vancity - Jumpstart	125.00	795.75	0.00	920.75
1015 · Cash - Vancity - Shares	0.00	0.00	7.79	7.79
Total 1000 · Cash - Vancity	23,804.65	2,876.43	4,803.91	31,484.98
1025 · Vancity Term Deposits				
102501 · 15mo Redeemable (IntRes - Il...	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Total 1025 · Vancity Term Deposits	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
1030 · Cash - PayPal	0.00	0.00	2,033.55	2,033.55
Total Chequing/Savings	38,804.65	2,876.43	6,837.46	48,518.53
Other Current Assets				
1801 · CRA Payroll Credits Receivable	2,033.42	0.00	0.00	2,033.42
Total Other Current Assets	2,033.42	0.00	0.00	2,033.42
Total Current Assets	40,838.07	2,876.43	6,837.46	50,551.95
TOTAL ASSETS	40,838.07	2,876.43	6,837.46	50,551.95
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
2400 · Unearned/Deferred Revenue				
2401 · Deferred Revenue - BC Parks	0.00	401.56	0.00	401.56
2402 · Deferred Revenue - FWCP	0.00	836.14	0.00	836.14
2403 · Federation of BC Naturalists	0.00	540.00	0.00	540.00
2404 · Deferred Revenue - Sitka Fndt	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
Total 2400 · Unearned/Deferred Reven...	20,000.00	1,777.70	0.00	21,777.70
Total Other Current Liabilities	20,000.00	1,777.70	0.00	21,777.70
Total Current Liabilities	20,000.00	1,777.70	0.00	21,777.70
Total Liabilities	20,000.00	1,777.70	0.00	21,777.70
Equity				
3300 · Unrestricted Net Assets	50,378.54	572.49	-607.04	50,343.99
Net Income	-29,540.47	526.24	7,444.49	-21,569.74
Total Equity	20,838.07	1,098.73	6,837.45	28,774.25
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	40,838.07	2,876.43	6,837.46	50,551.95

WildResearch
Profit & Loss by Class
 January through December 2025

	01 - Iona Island BO	03 - BCMMP	100 - General	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Contributed Support				
4040 · Other Reg Charity Grant	2,500.00	302.09	0.00	2,802.09
Total 4000 · Contributed Support	2,500.00	302.09	0.00	2,802.09
4100 · Donations				
4110 · Donations - Restricted	3,843.25	0.00	0.00	3,843.25
4100 · Donations - Other	2,150.00	540.00	3,972.64	6,662.64
Total 4100 · Donations	5,993.25	540.00	3,972.64	10,505.89
4200 · Fundraising - General				
4220 · Merchandise Revenue	0.00	0.00	658.65	658.65
Total 4200 · Fundraising - General	0.00	0.00	658.65	658.65
5100 · Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	6,188.13	6,188.13
5200 · Program Service Fees				
5205 · Plant ID workshops	0.00	0.00	37.00	37.00
5200 · Program Service Fees - Other	0.00	0.00	278.00	278.00
Total 5200 · Program Service Fees	0.00	0.00	315.00	315.00
5300 · Savings Interest				
5310 · Disbursement - Vancouver Fndt	0.00	0.00	2,506.83	2,506.83
5300 · Savings Interest - Other	122.28	9.64	0.00	131.92
Total 5300 · Savings Interest	122.28	9.64	2,506.83	2,638.75
5400 · Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	0.00	146.50	146.50
Total Income	8,615.53	851.73	13,787.75	23,255.01
Gross Profit	8,615.53	851.73	13,787.75	23,255.01
Expense				
6000 · Payroll Expenses				
6010 · Salary/Wages Expense	9,701.74	0.00	0.00	9,701.74
6020 · CPP - Company Expense	358.84	0.00	0.00	358.84
6030 · EI - Company Expense	144.64	0.00	0.00	144.64
Total 6000 · Payroll Expenses	10,205.22	0.00	0.00	10,205.22
6100 · Program Delivery Costs				
6110 · Field Supplies	4,553.15	0.00	0.00	4,553.15
6120 · Contracts	22,872.69	0.00	0.00	22,872.69
6130 · Workshop Materials	50.00	302.09	0.00	352.09
6100 · Program Delivery Costs - Other	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Total 6100 · Program Delivery Costs	27,775.84	302.09	0.00	28,077.93
6300 · General & Administrative				
6320 · AGM-related expenses	0.00	0.00	1,082.17	1,082.17
6350 · Computer, Web & IT Services	0.00	0.00	491.70	491.70
6370 · Bank Fees	23.40	1.80	8.10	33.30
6380 · Payment Processing Fees	151.54	21.60	233.91	407.05
6300 · General & Administrative - Ot...	0.00	0.00	-98.50	-98.50
Total 6300 · General & Administrative	174.94	23.40	1,717.38	1,915.72
6400 · Travel & Meetings				
6420 · Conferences & Meetings	0.00	0.00	405.00	405.00
Total 6400 · Travel & Meetings	0.00	0.00	405.00	405.00

5310 disbursements from holding a beneficial interest in a Vancouver Foundation endowment

Page 1

** Funds held by the Vancouver Foundation are a permanent externally held endowment. Only the interest income of these endowment funds is available for the benefit of WildResearch Society. This endowment is not included in the financial statements. The fair market value of funds held by the Vancouver Foundation as of December 31, 2025, is \$45,297.33. In 2024, WildResearch society has received \$1,967.86 in disbursement funds from Vancouver Foundation (line 5310, Disbursement – Vancouver Fndt)*

APPENDIX C

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2025 REPORT

C1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Vinci Au - MSOC Chair and Board Representative
2. Clare Stone – Member-at-Large, Social Media Contributor, and newsletter contributor
3. Caitlin Lichimo – Member-at-Large, Social Media Contributor, and Newsletter Contributor
4. Annie Wong – Social Media Contributor
5. Carlo Acuña – Social Media Contributor
6. Maria Horan – Newsletter Coordinator, Member-at-Large, and Social Media Contributor
7. Brooklyn Hillman – Newsletter Contributor
8. Zechariah Nightingale – Newsletter contributor
9. Alexandra Welch – Membership Chair and Newsletter Contributor
10. Viktorija Juciūtė – Ex Officio

C2. COMMITTEE PURPOSE

The Membership Services and Outreach Committee serves the interest of our members by providing workshops, events, and newsletters that educate and bring us together in community through a shared love and curiosity about science, nature, and conservation.

The committee is also committed to doing outreach to the broader public by inviting them to the events and workshops, and by participating in local community events. We spread awareness about the WildResearch’s community science programs and the reverberating impact they have on conservation training, public education, and research.

At present, WildResearch serves 222 active members. MSOC oversees and contributes to:

- Membership administration (registration, payment, insurance, etc)
- Organizing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Volunteer Appreciation Party (VAP)
- Merchandise
- Fundraising
- Outreach and general communications
- Newsletter production
- Social media management and content creation
- Organizing and facilitating WildResearch workshops and events

C3. COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, we held 8 MSOC meetings, produced 32 newsletters, and reached over 55,000 people on Instagram alone. In addition, we held 10 events which included workshops, walks, and work parties.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Volunteer Appreciation Party (VAP)

In 2025, we continued to host our AGM and VAP at the VanDusen Botanical Gardens, expanding into a larger space to allow for mingling.

We were fortunate to offer a wide array of generous door prizes, including a pair of binoculars and Peter Pyle's *Identification Guide to North American Birds*. In total, we received donations from 19 businesses and individuals, resulting in an impressive assortment of prizes.

We thank the MSOC team for their incredible efforts in securing these contributions; especially Clare Stone, who did an outstanding job reaching out to many local businesses.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who supported our volunteers and our mission:

- Aneka Vanderpas
- B Fit Personal Training
- Bard on the Beach
- Birdsbesafe
- Capilano Suspension Bridge
- Choices
- Earnest Ice Cream
- Feather Friendly
- JJBean
- Kidsbook
- Liron Gertsman Photography
- Museum of Anthropology at UBC
- Vancouver Art Gallery
- Vancouver Canadians Minor League Baseball
- Vancouver Diving Locker
- Vancouver Maritime Museum
- VIFF
- Vortex Optics
- WildBirds Unlimited

To celebrate our 15th anniversary in 2025, Aneka Vanderpas generously brought two sheet cakes to share. We also were treated to an engaging presentation by WildResearch Director-at-Large and Certified Wildlife Biologist, Myles Lamont, on "*Bald Eagle Tracking and Nest Mitigation*".

C4. OUTREACH

Newsletter

Our newsletter team of six produced 32 newsletters for an audience of 208 WildResearch members.

In addition to promoting local events and job and volunteering opportunities, we featured "Dispatches from the Field" and "Where's WildResearch"—sections that feature member experiences in the field and during their travel. We also hope to reintroduce a section where members can highlight their recent publications.

Many thanks to our steadfast team and especially to our wonderful newsletter coordinator, Maria Horan, for her leadership, organization, and training of new volunteers.

Social media

There is significant overlap in our social media team and newsletter teams. This group consistently puts out thoughtful and engaging that informs and inspires our online audiences about science, conservation, and the community that has formed around our grassroots organization.

Instagram has 4,832 followers and we were able to reach 57,000 users, with engagement peaking during spring and fall banding seasons and especially with banding-specific content.

While social media may appear straightforward, it requires careful planning, consistency, communication, creativity, and speaking to the moment. We're grateful for our social media team, especially Clare Stone and Caitlin Lichimo, for their sustained effort and growth throughout the year.

Boothing at community events

Community events help us make connections and build relationships not only with members of the public, but also with other organizations.

Booths provide opportunities to discuss shared values, explore new collaborations, spark excitement about conservation, and tell others about great community science and education tools such as Merlin. While we promote WildResearch's programs, our primary goal is to engage with others in meaningful conversation about what matters to our community and what we can collectively do to help better understand and protect our environment.

In 2025, we participated in 4 community events:

- Fingerling Festival, Port Moody
- OWL Open House, Delta
- Richmond Garlic Festival, Richmond
- Wings Over Iona, Richmond

C5. WORKSHOP AND EVENTS

In addition to workshops, we hosted several socials to bring the community together. In 2025, we put on 10 events including workshops, walks, socials, and a work party:

- Winter Bird ID Walk - Terra Nova Rural Park, Richmond
- Winter Bird ID Walk - Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Delta
- WildResearch Social - Steamworks Mount Pleasant, Vancouver
- Petals & Passerines Walk - Central Park, Burnaby
- WildResearch Bird Bag Making Work Party, Vancouver
- Beginner Plant ID Walk - Mt. Seymour, North Vancouver
- Ecosystems Workshop - Mt. Seymour, North Vancouver
- WildResearch Social - Tap & Barrel, Burnaby
- Beginner Plant ID Workshop - Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver
- Winter Bird ID Walk - ăwăyăwăy (Stanley Park), Vancouver

We'd like to give special thanks to our Winter Bird ID walk leaders and workshop organizers, with special appreciation to Mike Boyd for leading many of our walks and workshops.

C6. CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

A major challenge continues to be recruiting and training MSOC volunteers who can help organize events, attend booths, and lead small but new projects.

As WildResearch continues to grow, MSOC will continue to strengthen community, educate the public, and empower our members with both skills and knowledge to advance conservation science.

In 2026, we aim to:

- **Increase volunteer recruitment and onboarding capacity**, particularly for event organization, boothing, and communications support. Building clearer pathways for involvement will help distribute leadership and prevent volunteer burnout.
- **Deepening partnerships with local organizations** through cross-promotion and co-organizing events.

APPENDIX D

BC NATURE AND WILDRESEARCH MEMBERSHIP – 2025 REPORT

D1. PERSONNEL/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alexandra Welch is the WildResearch Club Representative for BC Nature as well as the WildResearch Membership Chair.

D2. BC NATURE CLUB REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES

As the BC Nature Club Representative, the role serves as WildResearch's liaison to the provincial organization, ensuring the club maintains good standing. Key responsibilities include maintaining BC Nature's membership database with accurate member information, writing an annual report summarizing WildResearch's activities, attending the annual AGM and periodic online club representative meetings, and handling ongoing correspondence regarding insurance, fees, and other administrative matters.

D3. MEMBERSHIP CHAIR DUTIES

As the Membership Chair, the role manages the day-to-day operations of WildResearch's membership system through BetterImpact, processing both new and renewing memberships while troubleshooting any database issues that arise. Communication responsibilities include sending timely reminder emails for expiring memberships and waivers, answering member questions and inquiries, and maintaining the current WildResearch Newsletter mailing list. This role ensures a smooth member experience from initial signup through renewal, keeping all membership records accurate and members informed of their status.

D4. BC NATURE OVERVIEW AND UPDATES

One of the benefits of BC Nature is that they provide an affordable insurance rate for members. Every WildResearch member is also a BC Nature member, as per the club agreement. At the 2025 BC Nature AGM and Conference, we were told that the insurance provider would be discussing changes to the fees. To ensure transparency and equality, BC Nature restructured the way member clubs payment for insurance.

Important changes include:

- The annual total due was about \$400 more than previous years (at a similar membership base), which is mostly a result of BC Nature increasing their fee from \$16 per membership to \$18 per membership, which resulted in an extra \$352 this year compared to previous years
- The change in insurance rates didn't change our base insurance fee much, only by \$10 or so
- BC Nature now has an extra little admin fee of \$20, on top of a \$80 flat rate fee
- They require me to upload waivers to their membership portal, and have outlined that if we do not have a current waiver for a person who attends and gets hurt at a WR event, the insurance is void. So just a reminder that it is critical our members only volunteer if they have a current signed waiver!
- Total cost for 176 members is \$3664.10, last year was 168 members at \$3239.40

D5. MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW AND UPDATES

WildResearch has had fairly consistent membership numbers, hovering just above 200 members every year. WildResearch has not increased membership fees in nearly 10 years, during which time operating costs have risen significantly. Most notably, BC Nature recently raised insurance rates, resulting in an additional \$400 expense this year compared to previous years. Beyond insurance, the club faces ongoing costs for essential services, including Mailchimp, BetterImpact, website hosting, and IIBO facility repairs.

Given the cumulative inflation of approximately 3% per year over the past decade and these rising operational costs, a modest fee adjustment is proposed to maintain the club's financial sustainability. Currently, a regular annual membership costs \$35, and a student membership costs \$30.

Proposed Annual Membership Fee Restructuring Options:

Option 1: Modest Increase

- General Membership: increase by \$5
- Student Membership: increase by \$5

Option 2: Inflation-Adjusted Increase

- General Membership: increase by \$10
- Student Membership: increase by \$5

APPENDIX E

COOPERS HAWK MONITORING PROGRAM 2025 REPORT

E1. PERSONNEL/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Program Manager is Alexandra Welch, with Viktorija Juciute, Chloe Boynton, and Harvey Dueck as valuable members of the committee, and Michelle Baudais helping with volunteer training. Angela Bond and Jay Brogan have also been instrumental in creating and running this program over the years.

E2. PROGRAM GOALS

The Raptor Monitoring contributes to all 3 organizational goals:

1. **Contribute to conservation science:** The data collected from the raptor monitoring program allows for changes in environmental conditions throughout the lower mainland to be observed by using a key indicator species of urban raptor, the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*).
2. **Provide our members with training and education in conservation science:** The raptor monitoring program trains participants in how to conduct raptor surveys using protocols used by government and industry. The pre-season workshop provides educational material about the importance of the environmental pollutants and the effects on wildlife.
3. **Conduct conservation outreach:** By providing this program to the general public, the raptor monitoring program shares with its participants the need for monitoring which will then be shared with their friends. As the surveys are completed throughout the urban area, occasionally people will stop to ask about the purpose of the call play-backs, providing more educational opportunities in real time.

E3. PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATES

As top predators, raptors are often the first species to be affected by a range of environmental pressures such as habitat availability and quality, prey populations, pollutants, and human disturbance. This WildResearch program focuses on Cooper's Hawks (COHA) within the city by conducting annual surveys to help determine local population abundance through data collection on the relative abundance and breeding success of Cooper's hawks in the Vancouver/Burnaby area.

In March 2023, Harvey introduced a new data collection methodology that significantly enhanced the program. This upgraded system has transformed our survey efficiency and accuracy, and we plan to keep using it. Previously, we gathered COHA data on paper, manually entering observation spot coordinates and playing back COHA sounds via MP3 recording over a speaker, which involved carrying a heavy toolkit and handling devices awkwardly before data collection. Harvey developed a COHA app that automatically records location coordinates, allows direct data input, and features a timed playback setup, enabling us to monitor the local COHA from a single application. This contribution means future COHA data collection will be simpler, less prone to errors, and automatically uploaded, reducing post-WildResearch AGM Agenda – 2026

survey data entry and processing for program coordinators. This methodology was successfully reapplied in 2025.

The 2025 season featured several program updates, including a dedicated email for the COHA program to streamline communication and volunteer coordination, an improved survey protocol, enhanced training sessions for volunteers, and Bluetooth speakers available for loan to enable participation for those without speakers for call playback. We had a fairly successful COHA program season, with 12 out of 24 quadrats allocated to volunteers. However, due to a combination of weather and volunteer time constraints, only 9 quadrats were surveyed. Despite this number being lower than previous years, we trained several new volunteers in the survey protocol, which is one of our core program goals! Additionally, we had a higher-than-average number of confirmed Cooper's hawk sightings!

Some action items for the 2026 season include moving the data collection website's domain from Harvey to WildResearch. Additionally, we are renewing efforts to clean up historical data and working with the WildResearch Research Committee to explore opportunities to use this data for research purposes.

WildResearch members have been instrumental in supporting this program. We plan to send out a survey to assess interest in participating in our April 2026 field season. We are looking for volunteers in various roles, including survey collection, training session leadership, and data management. If you'd like to help in any way, please watch for the upcoming survey. Also, Alexandra will be stepping down as Program Manager and will assist with the transition to the new chair. If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact awelch@wildresearch.ca.

The Urban Raptor Monitoring Program is set to return stronger than ever in April 2026, and we look forward to your continued involvement in this important work.

APPENDIX F

British Columbia Marsh Monitoring Program 2025 Report

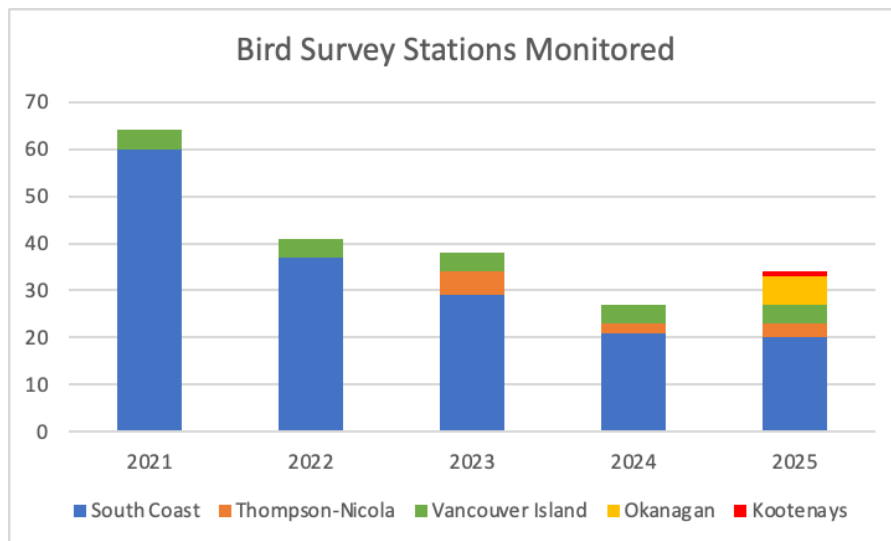
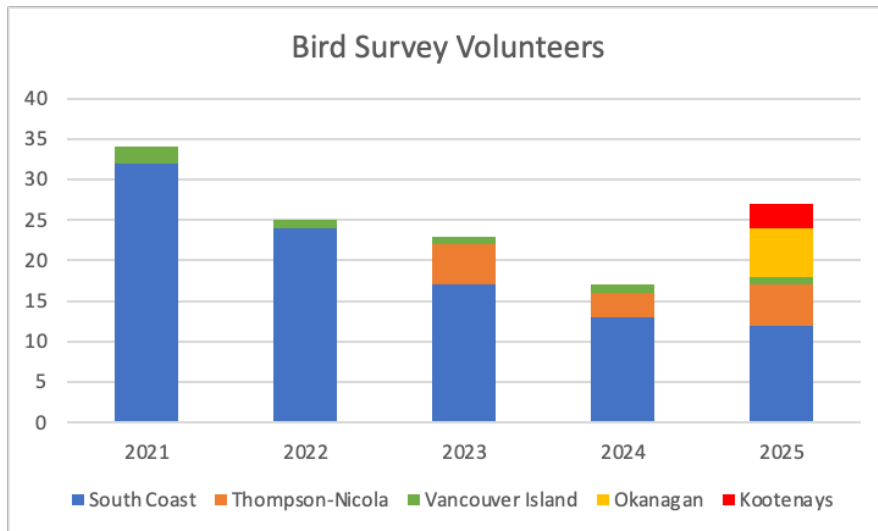
F1. PROGRAM GOALS

The British Columbia Marsh Monitoring Program (BCMMP) contributes to all three of WildResearch's organizational goals:

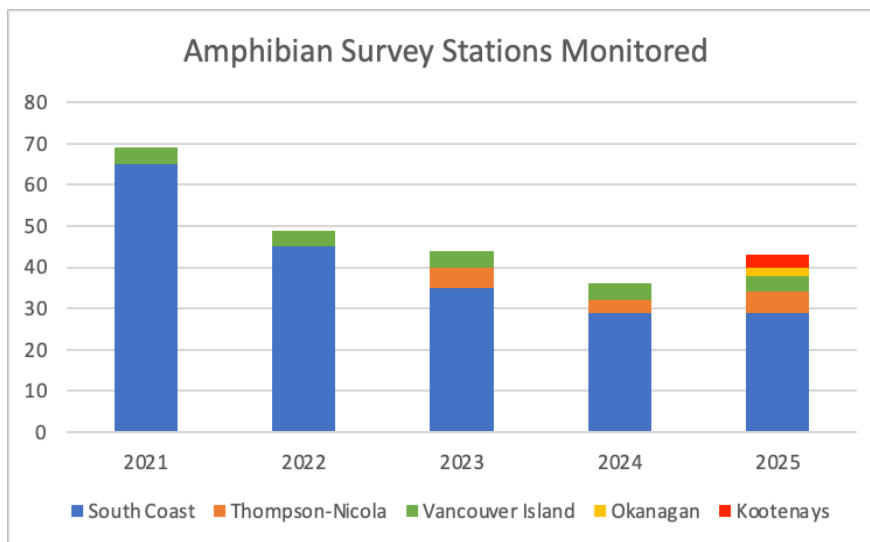
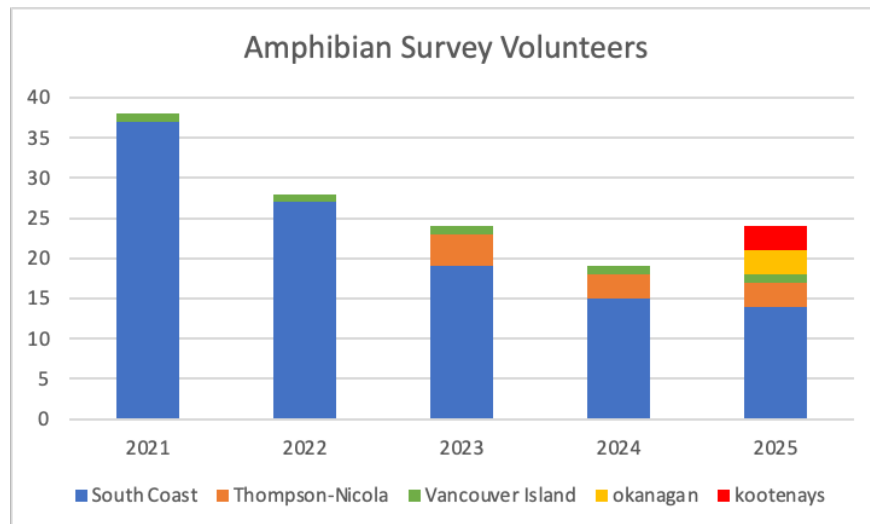
1. **Provide members with training and education:** The BCMMP provides volunteers with the skills to conduct passive call surveys for amphibians and targeted call-playback surveys for birds. Survey protocols, recordings of the training webinars, and online resources for learning how to identify amphibians and target bird species by call or song are all freely available through NatureCounts. As a large portion of the BCMMP survey training is self-guided, the committee provides support for volunteers via email, newsletters, and annual in-person workshops where capacity allows.
2. **Conduct public outreach:** The BCMMP hosts free marsh monitoring workshops each spring to the public, including to those not involved in marsh monitoring surveys. These workshops increase WildResearch's visibility throughout the public and highlight the importance of community science and environmental stewardship. Other forms of public outreach include the BCMMP's presence on social media, as well as the BCMMP committee members' involvement in various events, such as the BC Wildlife Federation's wetland education programs.
3. **Contribute to conservation science:** The BCMMP collects presence and abundance data on 13 amphibian and 8 marsh-dependent bird species in wetlands (with a focus on marshes) throughout the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, and Thompson-Nicola regions with plans to expand throughout the rest of BC. Data from the BCMMP is shared on the NatureCounts data portal run by Birds Canada and is made available to interested parties upon request for use in research and to inform mitigation and conservation efforts.

F2. SUCCESSES

1. **Overall participation:** 31 volunteers participated in BCMMP surveys in 2025, which is up from 24 volunteers in 2024.
2. **Bird surveys and participation:** 27 volunteers monitored 34 bird survey stations in 2025. This is an increase from previous years, in both the number of bird surveyors (17 in 2024; 23 in 2023; and 25 in 2022) and in bird stations monitored (27 stations in 2024). Additionally, six bird stations were monitored in the Okanagan, and one bird station was monitored in the Kootenays, both for the first time.



- Amphibian surveys and participation:** 24 volunteers monitored 43 amphibian survey stations in 2025. This is an increase from 2024, in both the number of amphibian surveyors (19 in 2024) and in amphibian stations monitored (36 stations in 2024). Additionally, two amphibian stations were monitored in the Okanagan, and three amphibian stations were monitored in the Kootenays, both for the first time.



4. **Delivery of grant-funded projects:** The BCMMP was awarded \$1,090 through BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature's 2025 Club Support Grant. These funds were used to:
 - Host one free marsh monitoring workshop for 12 participants in Kamloops
 - Purchase amphibian and bird identification guides, as well as children's wetland books; these were donated to local libraries and elementary schools in the Kootenays, and distributed to the "Little Free Libraries" around Kamloops (which included promotional BCMMP pamphlets tucked inside)
5. **Program promotion:** The BC Wildlife Federation promoted the BCMMP in their Wetlandkeepers courses in 2025, using a presentation that the BCMMP Committee put together.
6. **Newsletters:** Two newsletters were sent to volunteers throughout 2025; although this is fewer than previous years, we are considering this a "program success" given the committee's limited capacity.

7. **Committee organization:** A centralized permit/land permission tracking spreadsheet was created which will help the BCMMP to stay on top of this important requirement.
8. **Additional support:** A post-graduate student based in Fernie has committed to helping us with desktop work including locating potential new stations in the Kootenays.

F3. CHALLENGES

1. **Committee capacity:** Recruitment and retention of committee members is challenging, given the high volume of mainly computer-based, unpaid work needed to deliver quality program services. The BCMMP currently has four committee members: Blake Danis, Sky Jarvis, Sarah Town, and Amelia March. Recruiting, training, and coordinating new volunteer committee members is also time demanding. WildResearch applied to the BC Community Gaming Grant to hire a part-time coordinator, however, we were unsuccessful.
2. **Data form review:**
 - a. Like previous years, all survey forms need to be reviewed and validated manually by BCMMP committee members. Because this requires considerable time and effort, the committee was unable to finish the data review in 2025, limiting the amount of recent data available to those who request it via NatureCounts. Review of 2025 data is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.
 - b. A key part about data review is providing timely feedback to volunteer surveyors regarding mistakes they made either with the survey itself or with data entry. Since the data is not being reviewed in a timely manner, feedback is sometimes not received by volunteers until after they have already started the next season's surveys, leading to the same mistakes occurring.
3. **Inactive adopted stations:** Survey stations are adopted by volunteers via an online map on NatureCounts, but often they are accidentally not retired when a volunteer stops surveying. This makes the station appear to be "taken", which may be leading to lost opportunities for other interested volunteers. The solution is normally quite tedious: committee members cross-reference submitted data with the NatureCounts map to identify which adopted stations do not have submitted data, then they request a spreadsheet from Birds Canada to check who has adopted which stations. Committee members ideally email the volunteer(s) to prompt them for data or to confirm whether they want to keep monitoring. Lastly, committee members use a special login feature that mimics volunteers' NatureCounts account to manually retire their station (necessary if the volunteer does not respond).
4. **Permits:** Staying on top of permits has been challenging and onerous given most organizations' only one year-long permit, however, we plan to start requesting five-year-long permits.

F4. PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS & FUTURE OUTLOOK

Plans for the BCMMP in 2026 include:

- Applying for the BC Community Gaming Grant again with the aim of hiring a part-time coordinator
- Requesting that park permits and other permissions are renewed on a 5-year term

- Developing improved online and printed educational resources in partnership with Birds Canada this spring
- Hosting guided walks and workshops:
 - Kootenay region will host at least one guided bird walk
 - Thompson-Nicola region will host a mini workshop or marsh walk
 - Lower Mainland region will host a workshop in collaboration with Birds Canada
- Continuing to establish centralized, master spreadsheets, such as for the BCMMP’s inventory and for past grant applications
- Maintaining our strong connection and communication channels with Birds Canada, including providing feedback about NatureCounts

An ambitious goal for 2026, which is more so in the idea phase, is to make a protocol-specific training video. This may likely occur in future years.

F5. BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR

Income	
2025 BCMMP Account Balance	\$1,777.7
2026 Anticipated Funding	\$ 1,980.00
Total	\$3,757.7
Expenses for 2026	
Transportation reimbursement	\$200.00
Educational project for the BC Naturalists' Foundation grant	\$1,980.00
Reimbursement to committee members for wetland books	\$500.00
Total	\$2,680.00

F6. VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer surveyors: 310 hours (approx. 10 hrs. per volunteer annually)

BCMMP committee members: 360 hours (approx. 90 hrs. per committee member annually)

Total: 670 hours

F7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DUTIES

BCMMP committee members aim to meet the last Tuesday of each month, with some exceptions in the off-season, to discuss program ideas and tasks to maintain and expand the program. Responsibilities that stem from these meetings, as well as usual program maintenance duties include:

- Responding to emails from volunteers
- Reaching out or responding to program collaborators and local organizations
- Renewing land permissions and permits annually
- Ensuring/requesting that Birds Canada's insurance is up-to-date annually
- Updating or editing the survey protocol documents
- Applying for grants and reporting results
- Delivering grant-specific activities including:
 - Planning and hosting workshops and nature walks
 - Creating other educational and outreach materials (e.g. pamphlets, library backpacks, species ID guides)
- Writing and sending newsletters: 2 to 4 per year
- Promoting the program through various avenues such as social media accounts and public presentations
- Identifying new stations and setting them up in NatureCounts
- Reviewing submitted data from volunteers and providing them with feedback
- Ensuring inactive volunteers have not forgotten to retire their station(s)
- Recruiting, training, and coordinating new committee members
- Measuring program metrics to track long-term progress (e.g. volunteer participation, stations monitored, data use requests...etc.)

Current BCMMP committee members include: blake danis, Sarah Town, Sky Jarvis, and Amelia March

Former/inactive BCMMP committee members include Quinn McCallum, Jessie Russell, Gordon Hatusupy, Tay Powrie, Kanu Varman, Harrison Smith, Julie Wray, Vikram Naik, Florian Reurink, Caroline Lafond, Molly Tilden, Kai Smith

Birds Canada: Rémi Torrenta with support from other Birds Canada staff.

F8. COLLABORATIONS

The BCMMP is itself a joint effort between WildResearch and Birds Canada. Birds Canada provides the bird protocols which arose from the Great Lakes MMP. Birds Canada also provides and maintains the BCMMP NatureCounts portal, liability insurance for our volunteers, and organizational support. The BCMMP would not be possible without Birds Canada.

The BCMMP collaborates with various local naturalist groups throughout BC, who conduct surveys at their sites using our protocols and submit their data to the project. These groups include the Stanley Park Ecology Society, the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club, the Kamloops Naturalist Club, and Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) have been using the BCMMP bird survey protocols for surveying marsh birds across BC as part of the Habitat Joint Ventures initiative. The bulk of ECCC's monitoring occurred from 2022 to 2024, but surveys at 10 select sites occurred in 2025.

As mentioned previously, the BC Wildlife Federation promoted the BCMMP in their Wetlandkeepers courses in 2025, using a presentation that the BCMMP Committee put together. The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) have been using the bird and amphibian survey protocols to monitor restored wetlands across BC.

Furthermore, we continue to build a relationship with the BC Parks Foundation. We are also exploring new relationships with BC Parks, and with the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners.

APPENDIX G

IONA ISLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY PROGRAM 2025 REPORT

G1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Angela Hansen

Station co-managers: Angela Hansen and Brendan Toews

Secretary: Vinci Au

Other committee members: Rae Xamin, Chloe Boynton, Sean Vanderbuilt, Mat Charette, Olivia Lustosa, Paula Gomez-Villalba, Alan McKenzie

Renovation sub-committee: Angela Hansen, Vinci Au, Paul Hansen, Alan McKenzie, Forrest Tanner, Amy Wilson

G2. 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.

G3. SEASON SUCCESSES

Breakdown of Number of species and individuals caught

Total # of birds captured: 3041 (2266 banded, 620 recaps, 149 unbanded)

Spring:

- o 1017 total captures: 742 banded, 150 recaps, 119 unbanded (24 species)
- o Over 34 days; 1566.65 net hours
 - ~30 birds/day
 - ~0.65 birds/net hr

Year-to-Year Comparison

Year	Total Captures	Banding Days	Birds/net hr
2015	1476	40	0.58
2016	1232	44	0.44
2017	2806	40	1.43
2018	2197	44	0.66
2019	2858	48	0.92

2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	1771	37	0.72
2022	5316	42	2.28
2023	1869	35	1.33
2024	1836	37	1.00
2025	1017	34	0.65

- o 39 species banded and 26 species recaptured
- o Most abundant banded:

Species	Number Banded
WIWA	223
OCWA	90
GCSP	63
YRWA	43
LISP	39
RWBL	29

- o Interesting Highlights
 - Rarities:
 - Unusual Captures: WTSP, SSHA, COHA, BTYW

Fall:

- o 2024 total captures: 1524 banded; 470 recaps; 30 unbanded
- o Over 34 days; 2539 net hours (71.96% net coverage)
 - ~59.53 birds/day
 - ~0.80 birds/net hr

Year-to-Year Comparison

Year	Total Captures	Banding Days	Birds/net hr
2015	1476	22	0.35
2016	1232	22	1.05
2017	2806	29	1.12
2018	3509	35	0.95
2019	4192	38	2.02
2020	2272	37	1.03
2021	2448	29	1.62
2022	1480	41	0.79
2023	947	25	0.84
2024	770	25	0.60
2025	1524	34	0.80

- 44 species banded, 4 subspecies banded and 25 species, 1 subspecies recaptured

- Most abundant banded:

Species	Number Banded
YEWA	556
SOSP	152
OCWA	83
COYE	80
UNWV*	63
SPTO	59

*UNWV changed code for WAVI before separation of WEWV & EAWV existed. WEWV from 2026 onwards!

- Interesting Highlights
 - First for Station: AMRE, MERL
 - Rarities: NOWA
 - Unusual Captures: WTSP, BTYW, DUFL, HAFL, BUSH, VATH, BHGR, WEPW

Breakdown of volunteer contribution and visitors

Total Number of volunteers and volunteer hours:

- Spring: 38 different volunteers, 27 volunteer days, 643 hours
- Fall: 55 different volunteers, 38 volunteer days, 1348 hours

Education & Outreach Program

- Total: 540 (Spring: 190, Fall: 350) people visited IIBO
- Group visits:
 - o **Spring:** KPU Ecology Class x 2, Wildlife Rescue, BC Coroner's Service, Bird's Canada Birding with Me – 72 people total
 - o **Fall:** Fairmont, Birding With Me for the Filipino Community, Wings Over Iona, UBC ornithology class with Darren Irwin, UBC Vancouver - The Wildlife Society club, NatureKids BC – 144 people total

Banding Workshops

Aging and molt patterns for Banders Workshop

- Spring and fall 2025, prior to both banding seasons, administered by Catherine Jardine for Intermediate/advanced banders.

2025 Successes:

1. Implementation of strict data control during banding season

- a. We were able to ensure that data was being checked on every bird throughout the banding day
- b. We were able to implement a daily data check and quality control after each banding day
- c. No data was missing from the fall season, consistency in data collection significantly improved with one experienced BIC in the fall vs. 9 different BICs of varying experience levels in the spring

2. Return to a consistent monitoring program (post pandemic)

- a. After the disruption to consistency of the banding program caused by Covid-19 that affected banding stations across Canada and beyond, well after the initial pandemic, we were able to have a successful, regular Fall banding season, only missing banding due to weather conditions
- b. We were able to increase number of volunteers – 38 in Spring 2025 vs. 36 (Spring 2024); 55 in Fall 2025 vs. 25 (Fall 2024)
- c. We were able to increase number of visitors – Spring 2025 – 118 Random Passersby + 72 Visitors to Planned Events = 190 Total vs. 106 Total (Spring 2024); Fall 2025 - 144 Random Passersby + 206 Visitors to Planned Events = 350 Total vs. 89+ Total (Fall 2024)
- d. We were able to hire one experienced full-time Bander in Charge to run the banding station in fall 2025, willing to work every day, providing consistent coverage and data collection, and training of other staff and volunteers through the season. A rotating roster of banding assistants was used to assist the BIC and allow our continuing staff from previous seasons to continue their training and elevate their skills

3. Rejuvenated IIBO Committee

- a. The IIBO Committee resumed regular planning meetings (monthly)
- b. Recruited new active members
- c. Cleaning and organizing the banding station
- d. Updating and fixing supplies and equipment

4. Clarify and update volunteer guidelines

- a. Updating volunteering guidelines and ethics/code of conduct
- b. Development of clear youth volunteer guidelines for ages 15+

5. Fundraising

- a. Membership based fundraising was successful for banding station supplies and equipment

6. Detailed Budget created for tracking and planning

- a. Clarity for planning and needs assessment
- b. Successful grant writing by committee between seasons

7. Engaged with Nature Vancouver

- a. Recruited additional census volunteers to help bridge the gap and enable banders and banding volunteers to focus on net checks and banding, including external and new volunteers from BCFO and Nature Vancouver.
- b. Working on a partnership with Nature Vancouver for the benefit of both organizations

8. Implemented new orientation and census volunteering shifts

- a. Added slots to BetterImpact for volunteers to sign up initially to orientation slots to better manage number of new volunteers
- b. Re-assessed how we define beginner, intermediate, and advanced bander designations
- c. Added slots to BetterImpact for volunteers to accompany Census Lead for either a) orientation, b) learn more and become more confident, in order to be able to become

Census Lead in the future or c) as a backup for Census Lead to make sure that Census is conducted

Other Exciting Things

1. Banding Hut Repairs and renovations (wall waterproofing, mold remediation, roof reinforcement and replacement)

- a. We are working hard to get as much of the banding hut repaired before SMMP
- b. We have a sub-committee working together to plan the renovations, source supplies, hire contractors, and coordinate volunteers.
- c. We were able to get funding from several sources to help with the costs associated with Hut Repairs
 - i. Fundraising within our membership
 - ii. Ocean Action Grant (Supplies for station and renovations, mural, and community event in cooperation with Musqueam Nation)
 - iii. George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program from Metro Vancouver Parks Foundation (Supplies for station and renovations, and salaries)
 - iv. Sitka Foundation Activator Fund (Supplies for station and renovations, and salaries)
 - v. BC Nature Club Support Grant (Contractor fees for renovations-roof replacement)
- d. We have permission for the project from Metro Vancouver Parks and are in communication with them
- e. Volunteers needed!

2. NABC certification workshop hosting

- a. Exploring running certification workshops at the station as a training and fundraising opportunity

3. Exchange and Visitor program, via partnerships with other Banding Stations

- a. Looking to create Banding Station exchange opportunities with TRBO banding station with the T.R.E.E.S. organization, managed by Mathieu Charette in Belize
- b. Investigating exchange opportunities in Brazil (connection through B.A. Olivia Lustosa)

4. Pelagic and waterbird boat trips

- a. We are exploring the possibility of organizing and leading birding boat trips as a fundraiser locally

5. NSWO Monitoring Program

- a. We are still in the complex process of working hard to plan an official Owl Banding Program
- b. Grant applications and fundraising are on-going in order to fund this program

G4. SEASON CHALLENGES

1. Data submission

- a. Get all involved up to speed about changes to data submission
- b. Make sure that data is collected in the most efficient manner for the end-goal in data submission

- c. This is all done with volunteer hours by committee members (untracked)
- 2. CMMN membership**
 - a. Application process still ongoing
 - b. Refining our processes to be sustainable into the future
 - 3. CMMN data collection**
 - a. Old CMMN data collection method being phased out – file not updated
 - b. Determine best way to implement new method (what to collect, how to collect and how to combine collected census data and banding/observation data) – NatureCounts App-based
 - c. Update and align station protocol with a sustainable reality
 - 4. Coverage of Census on days banding is cancelled**
 - a. Make sure that census is done, even if banding is cancelled by having a backup in place
 - 5. Increasing Education Outreach**
 - a. Involve more school groups, interested nature groups, etc.
 - b. Begin outreach earlier, coordinate schedule to allow for back-up dates in case of bad weather, and invite past groups to return, gently recommend a donation be made by groups visiting.
 - 6. Capacity for training during smooth running of the banding station**
 - a. Keep experienced volunteers up to speed on which newer volunteers need what training
 - b. Keep BAs in the loop about training opportunities
 - c. Have frequently returning volunteers instruct newer (and infrequent) volunteers on changes at the station

G5. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK for 2026 and SUMMARY for 2025

1. IBO Funding for 2025

a. Grants

In total, we received \$31,020 in funding from several grants in 2025 to support the 2026 IBO banding seasons and hut renovations:

i. Sitka Activator Fund Grant from Sitka Foundation - \$20,000

Much of this grant has been allocated towards Bander-in-Charge and Banding Assistant salaries, as well as hut renovations.

ii. Ocean Action Grant from Ocean Wise - \$1,020

This funding was granted to Paula Gomez Villalba, an IBO Committee Member, for her Stories in Flight project at IBO/Iona Beach Regional Park. Just over \$1000 of that funding was spent on hut renovations and field supplies.

iii. George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program from Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation - \$10,000 per year for 3 years

Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation has awarded us \$10K per year for 3

years to help cover salaries, hut renovations, and field supplies.

b. Fundraising - \$2,770

We ran a successful fundraising campaign to replace aging infrastructure at IIBO, raising almost \$3,000 in donations designated specifically for the station. These funds supported the replacement of our generator that provides us with pre-dawn lighting and powers the laptop used for data entry, as well as other tools such as brooms and boot brushes that help us maintain the station.

c. Visitor groups - ~\$575

Hosting visitor and tour groups has allowed IIBO to introduce community science, avian research, and Iona Beach Regional Park to a wide range of audiences. From local businesses to school groups, we scheduled and welcomed diverse visitors throughout the season. While the primary goal of these tours is education and outreach rather than revenue generation, we have begun encouraging voluntary donations to help sustain our monitoring and operational efforts.

2. IIBO Funding into 2026

a. Current financial outlook

In our current financial position, we can cover the essentials required to operate IIBO's spring and fall migration monitoring program, as well as complete some priority hut renovations. However, there remains a significant funding gap to support critical components beyond this baseline.

One key shortfall is funding for data review and entry, a task typically carried out by the Bander-in-Charge. Ensuring data quality and accuracy is essential for submission to the North American Bird Banding Program database. All records must be carefully vetted and properly entered for the data to be scientifically robust, informative, and usable. This work requires both technical expertise and considerable time. At present, we face an estimated \$4,500 shortfall to adequately support this component.

In addition, we estimate a remaining \$7,000 funding gap to complete the banding hut restoration. These upgrades are critical to ensuring the long-term integrity and usability of the station hut, which serves not only as a functional workspace for monitoring operations but also as a seasonal interpretive centre for tours and park visitors. The hut also features interpretive signage, allowing visitors to engage with and appreciate the community science conducted at Iona Beach Regional Park throughout the year.

Additional funding of approximately \$13,000 would allow us to hire an additional Banding Assistant (BA), expanding IIBO's capacity to host more tours, train more volunteers, and broaden public outreach. This investment would also help equip more early-career biologists with practical field skills and build a larger, more resilient base of trained banders to support the station's long-term sustainability. In addition, BAs can help play a key role in coordinating the logistical and operational requirements of running a banding station, further strengthening daily operations.

b. Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring Program

Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO) monitoring programs in Western Canada currently lack the monitoring coverage seen in other parts of the country. We aim to help address this knowledge gap by establishing a NSWO monitoring program at IIBO. In 2024, we conducted a pilot season that successfully demonstrated NSWO presence and movement through Iona Beach Regional Park during fall migration.

To operate a scientifically rigorous and successful NSWO monitoring program, specialized owl-specific equipment is required to safely capture, age, and band birds. We estimate start-up costs of \$13,000–\$14,000, which includes specialized equipment, operational supplies, and the cost of a skilled Bander-in-Charge to lead the program.

c. Fundraising

To address these funding gaps, we will continue targeted fundraising efforts to support specific items and priority projects. We will also continue hosting tours at the banding station, which, while primarily educational, are expected to help offset incidental operational costs through voluntary donations.



Final day of the fall 2025 banding season, clean-up crew. Back row left to right: Paul Xamin, Rae Xamin, Paula Gomez-Villalba, Clay Meng, and front row left to right: Angela Hansen, Adrian Pastora, and Chloe Chan (by Rae Xamin).



American Redstart, AMRE (by Rae Xamin).



Black-throated Gray Warbler, BTYW (by Rae Xamin).



Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler, AUWA (by Rae Xamin).



Black-headed Grosbeak, BHGR (by Rae Xamin).



Bushtit, BUSH (by Paul Xamin).



Golden-crowned Sparrow, GCSP (by Rae Xamin).



MacGillivray's Warbler, MGWA (by Rae Xamin).



Merlin, MERL (by Paul Xamin).



Varied Thrush, VATH (by Paul Xamin).



Western Wood-Pewee, WWPE (Rae Xamin).



Comparing Yellow Warblers, YEWA (by Bristol Kennedy).



Northern Flicker, Red-shafted, NOFL (by Angela Hansen).



Measuring the leg of a Spotted Towhee to decide band size, SPTO (by Bristol Kennedy).



Applying metal band to Spotted Towhee, SPTO (by Bristol Kennedy).



Extracting small songbird from mist-net (by Bristol Kennedy).



Blowing back feather from breast to check for fat level and brood-patch. This is a hatch-year bird with no fat, with feathers growing in over it's "baby belly" (by Bristol Kennedy).



Updating the bird species tracking board at the end of the banding day, Paul Xamin, Angela Hansen, and Rae Xamin (left to right) (by Bristol Kennedy).



Orange-crowned Warbler, OCWA (by Bristol Kennedy).



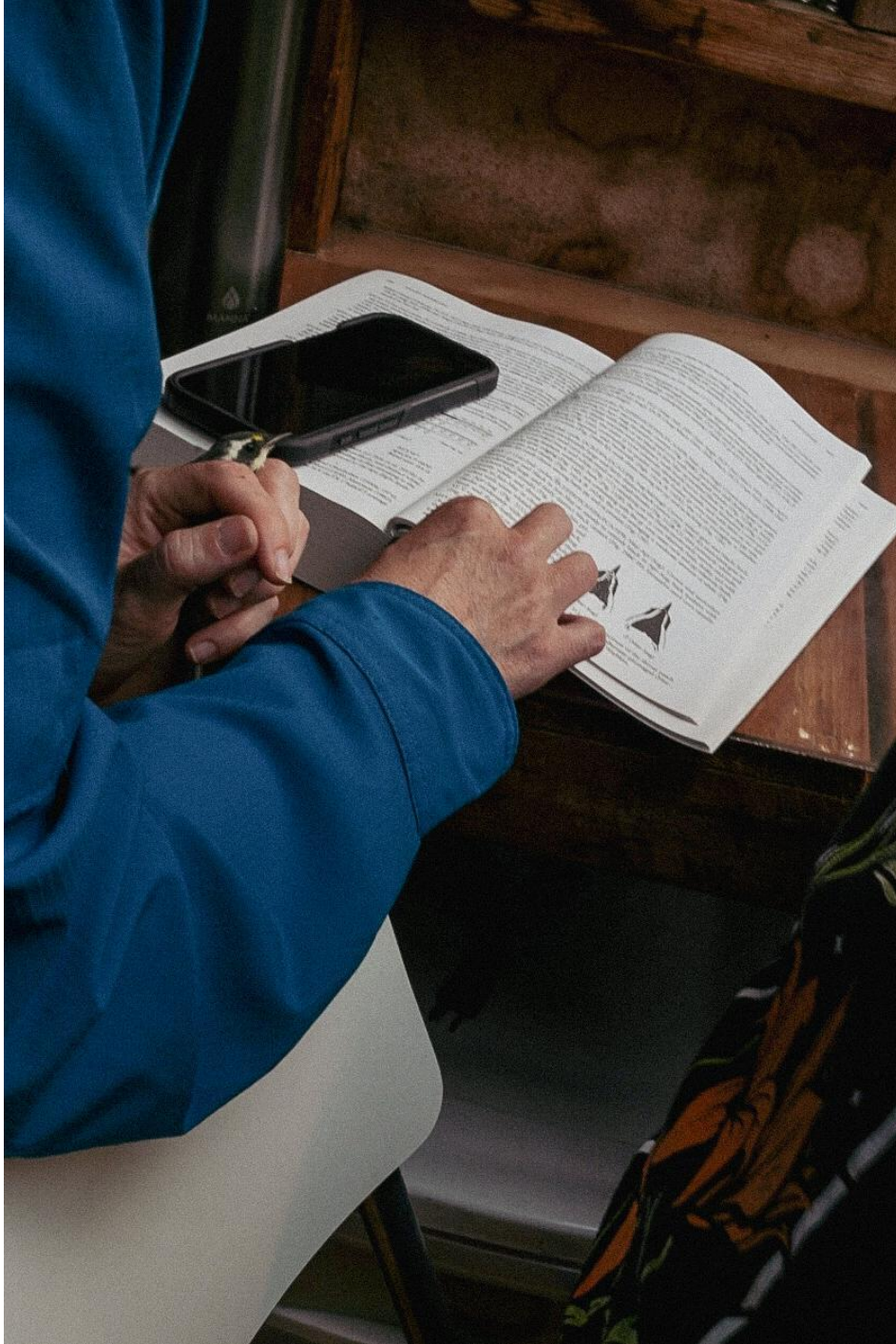
Birds are weighed in small canisters on a sensitive scale to determine body mass (by Bristol Kennedy).



Wing chord length (curved) is measured with special wing rulers (by Bristol Kennedy).



Mist-nets used to catch birds passively are taken down at the end of each banding session and stored in reusable cloth shopping bags (by Bristol Kennedy).



Looking up Black-throated Gray Warbler in the North American “banding bible”, Pyle (by Bristol Kennedy).



Individual birds are kept in cotton draw-string bags awaiting their turn for processing in the banding station (by Bristol Kennedy).



Downy Woodpecker being aged by looking at the open wing for plumage characteristics. In the background you can see the containers of different size bands (by Bristol Kennedy).



Volunteer Sal Tisdale working as scribe in the banding station (by Bristol Kennedy).

APPENDIX H

RESEARCH COMMITTEE 2025 REPORT

H1. COMMITTEE PURPOSE

The Research Committee was designed around and aims to contribute to all 3 organizational goals:

- 1. Contribute to conservation science:** WildResearch's flagship program, the songbird migration monitoring station, has collected an impressive 15 years of data during both spring and fall migration to date. In 2022, a paper was published in *Ornithology* using the first 10 years of this data to understand refueling rates and stopover dynamics across short and long-distance migrants. This was a proof-of-concept paper that garnered wide attention in the conservation science community as well as across other banding stations. Several such stations have reached out wanting to contribute to similar papers, and there have been a number published in the last few years. This was really the start of the Research Committee and demonstrated WildResearch can be a leader in innovative programs that contribute to the overall conservation science landscape. There are many more questions that can be answered with the continuing banding station data collection, as well as secondary programs.
- 2. Provide our members with training and education in conservation science:** A key component of the Research Committee is not only to produce research products, but also provide opportunities for training in conservation research, the scientific theory, and field experience beyond the banding station. As an example, for the latter, WildResearch partnered with ECCC collaborators to form the WESA (Western Sandpiper) project for two years, providing volunteers with shorebird field work experience. There are opportunities for more projects like this, and this is a key driver when the research committee aims to make collaborative relationships with government or academic organizations. There is also substantial opportunity for partnering with local universities to design undergraduate or graduate research projects that align with both the goals of WildResearch, as well as university research programs.
- 3. Conduct conservation outreach:** Producing research products can be very effective for conservation outreach if presented properly. The published paper mentioned above was advertised widely and graphic abstracts were designed so that visitors to IIBO can understand a bit about what we do. There is substantial opportunity for maps and figures to be presented in such a way that communicates the importance of what WildResearch does as well as the conservation of migratory songbirds.

H2. SEASON SUCCESSES

Things that went well this season:

- 2025 was a start-up year for the Research Committee after being run solo by its founding director Devin de Zwaan for several years. This year, the focus was on building membership for the committee, transitioning to a new director and exploring smaller (short-term) projects that a newer committee could manage.
- The Cooper's Hawk data from 2018-2022 was explored and summarized and a couple of key changes for the Cooper's Hawk program were identified for future years. These will be shared with the COHA Committee in 2026 for potential implementation.

H3. SEASON CHALLENGES

Capacity and attendance was an ongoing issue for the Research Committee this year.

H4. SUMMARY OF EVENTS

The Research Committee had no real events in 2025.

H5. PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS & FUTURE OUTLOOK

In 2026, a priority will be re-examining capacity of current committee members and seeking new membership to divide tasks to focus on some of the key short-term goals previously identified.

- **Short-term goals (1-3 years):** The BRITE internship at UBC is a program that provides funding for graduate students to do a short (3-6 month) project that either aligns with or is separate to their thesis. Several projects have been identified that would be perfect as a BRITE project and would improve research collaborations with the local academic community. Potential projects include analyzing the now 15 years songbird migration monitoring dataset as a follow up to the 2022 paper, focusing more on changing phenology and productivity and their drivers. WildResearch is in a real position to not only characterize migration behaviour, but now start to look at changes over time: a key theme that will guide research activity over the next several years. The COHA project has also collected a large amount of data over the years. As the research leaders at WildResearch, the research committee will assess the collected data to inform future changes to the program as well as produce a data product (e.g., a paper). This may be done either in collaboration with a university student or through the leadership of a volunteer, depending on the state of the data. However, the end goal will be results and maps that can better help communicate to the public.
- **Mid-term goals (3-5 years):** Collaborations will be sought with plant biologists and landscape ecologists to characterize the habitat around WildResearch mist-nets to better understand the fine and coarse scale habitat features of Iona at present and historically. This

will be useful for two reasons when considering individual mist-nets and the bird community they capture separately. First, it will allow projects assessing how changes in surrounding habitat have led to changes in the songbird community being captured by the mist-nets. Secondly, it will provide an important baseline for future habitat changes, such as those expected from the waste water treatment plant expansion. Together, this will allow us to characterize the quality of stopover habitat at Iona and make more direct conservation recommendations. Other projects will also be pursued, including potential owl tracking projects and extensions of the past WESA project.

- **Long-term goals (5-10 years):** While long-term in nature, certain projects will need a baseline to be put in place shortly. One such example is the expansion of the Iona waste water treatment plant. Given the migration data already collected at Iona, the expansion presents an unprecedented opportunity for a before-after assessment of the ecological restoration planned as part of the expansion. Very few such studies exist and this will allow WildReserach to continue to be an innovator and at the forefront of conservation research. Given the extended horizon of this project and the multi-year phases outlined in the work plan, there will be opportunities to collect songbird migration data during the expansion phase, as well as after. WildResearch is working hard to make sure our mist-nets remain in their current locations and our operations remain unhindered, arguing for the benefits of stability and ability to assess the conservation impact of the ecological restoration. There is potential to partner with a lab at a local university for a PhD student to take on some of this project as a major part of their dissertation, but for now, our focus will be on maintaining the integrity of our data collection so that we will have an uninterrupted assessment of how songbirds use habitat at Iona through the initial disruptions and then restorations. Finally, WildResearch and IIBO do not operate alone. Our banding station exists in an ecosystem of multiple banding stations throughout British Columbia. We are turning our long-term attention towards establishing better working partnerships with these banding stations to help ensure a better future for programs like ours and also allow us to answer larger scale questions about bird migration and conservation.

H6. FUNDING THIS PAST YEAR

- The program did not use any funding this year. In the coming years the BRITE internship will be pursued for additional funding and external funding sources may be considered if they can expand our research potential.

H7. BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR

- No specific budget for next year at this point.

H8. VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Not quantifiable.

H9. PERSONNEL/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- The Committee Chair was Chloe Boynton, after founder Devin de Zwaan stepped down into an advisory role. Angela Hansen, Agraj Rathi and Mel Chanona all joined the committee in 2025.

H10. COLLABORATIONS

- No collaborations this year. Previous collaborations have involved Environment and Climate Change Canada (i.e., Western sandpiper work). The coming year should see the initiation of a collaboration with UBC and their Brite Internship program.