**Assistant Banders, (Rocky Point Bird Observatory)**  
**Start July 1**

www.rpbo.org

Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) has operated bird banding and related programs on southern Vancouver Island since 1994. Our operations are located west of Victoria on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. RPBO is the westernmost member station of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) (www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cmmn) and the only CMMN station on the west coast of Canada. Each year during the spring and fall migration periods, thousands of birds migrate through Rocky Point.

RPBO’s primary role is to monitor the population trends, productivity and survivorship of migratory songbirds in coastal British Columbia through daily abundance surveys and bird banding. The habitat at our fall monitoring sites are diverse, including coastal Douglas fir forests, riparian streams, marshes, tidal flats and one of the few remaining areas of intact Garry oak habitat in Canada. Through standardized bird surveys and banding we hope to continue to gain insight into the long-term conservation of western Canada’s migratory birds and to conserve Canada’s flora and fauna for future generations to enjoy.

RPBO also operates hummingbird monitoring, MAPS, and a nocturnal owl monitoring program, banding migratory Northern Saw-whet Owls. We also monitor breeding bird populations at two stations in the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) network.

**The positions:**  
The federal Canada Summer Jobs program funds these positions. The student will gain significant technical skills and scientific knowledge invaluable for future scientific work related to Canada’s migratory birds.

The Assistant Bander, (2 positions available – a 6 week position or 8 week position), will primarily support our fall migration monitoring projects, which track the population trends (including age and sex composition), productivity, and survival of more than 95 species of migratory land birds and owls. Assistant banders will also participate in Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) banding. Most work will occur at our main monitoring sites on southern Vancouver Island (Rocky Point and Pedder Bay).

The field work component involves using internationally-accepted standard protocols of the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Bird Banding Lab, Bird Studies Canada and the Institute of Bird Populations to monitor birds by constant effort mist-netting, and by sight and sound surveys along established transects (land birds and seabirds). Field work will occur under the direction of the Banders-in-Charge. Interns will assist in collecting field data, entering and managing data. The banding day typically starts 30 minutes before sunrise and ends approximately 7 to 7 ½ hours later. Owl banding starts around sunset and ends approximately 6 ½ to 7 hours later. Banding occurs every day, weather and site access permitting.

The student will learn how to identify land bird species by sight and sound, how to safely hold and handle birds, and extract them from mist-nets. He or she will learn how to band and accurately age and sex birds, as well as discuss the ecological and biological concepts behind the observed patterns.
They will also be involved in other administrative and management aspects of banding station operations, potentially including preparing habitat assessment reports, public outreach and communications.

**Duties include:**
- Setup and maintenance of banding equipment
- Monitoring mist nets and extracting birds for banding
- Handling and banding live birds - Entering and managing bird banding data in an Excel based database
- Data management and review
- Preparing an occasional blog of the weeks activities and highlights, adding content to our social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Training volunteers in bird extraction from mist nets, data entry and banding
- Doing census as required – walking a specified route while recording birds as observed by sight and sound
- Helping with daily observations of birds while at the banding station.
- Public outreach - providing information to the public when they visit the banding site (organization’s mission, project overview, information about birds in the region, local conservation issues)

**Compensation:**
Salary will be $13.75 per hour (plus mandatory benefits).

**Start and end dates:**
July 1st, 2017 start date. The end date will be 6 or 8 weeks after the start date depending on the position.

**Required qualifications:**
- Familiarity with or a keen interest in birds
- Ability to work in outdoors during a wide range of weather conditions
- Attention to detail
- Record of accuracy
- Ability to work with others and independently
- Comfort with handling live birds
- Good judgment skills
- Own transportation to the banding location (it is not on a public bus route)

**Desired qualifications:**
- Experience working with live birds, particularly bird banding or census experience
- Familiarity with western North American Bird species, including an ability to identify species by ear
- Experience working in a volunteer organization

**Additional requirements for these positions, applicant must meet the following criteria:**
- be between 15 and 30 years of age (inclusive) at the start of employment;
- was registered as a full-time student during the preceding academic year;
- intends to return to school on a full-time basis during the next academic year;
• is a student in a secondary, post-secondary, CEGEP (Quebec only), vocational or technical program;
• is a Canadian Citizen, permanent resident, or person on whom refugee protection has been conferred under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and;
• is legally entitled to work according to the relevant provincial / territorial legislation and regulations.
• Must be able to work 30 to 40 hours/week

Submit résumé and copy of post-secondary transcript by email with references to execdir@rpbo.org by June 7, 2017. Please include "Summer Student Applicant" in the subject line.

For more information, please contact Jag Sekhon(execdir@rpbo.org).