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STATION REPORTS –  
BANDING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

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COSTA RICA BIRD OBSERVATORIES



From the beginning of 2020, CRBO was able to run three of its stations. Over the year, three crews ran the Madre Selva highland stations in Trinidad de la Dota. Each crew also spent a week at the Caribbean lowland site in Tortuguero operating several stations there. Holly Garrod and Chespi Elizondo ran the third site, the Guanacaste site in the north. We continued its ongoing training of local “parabiologists”. If you are not familiar with this term, they are individuals, often indigenous people, who are trained in basic biological skills to support wildlife conservation and research programs.

Once Covid-19 hit Costa Rica, CRBO took a hiatus for several months to reconsider its protocols and discuss how we could still safely host volunteer banders. In October 2020, CRBO relaunched its banding internship with two interns from the United States. We rented a car and took the banders directly to the highland site, where they have operated several sites and remained for the last 2.5 months. The banders were asked to quarantine beforehand and wore masks for the first two weeks of banding. They have been well taken care of and remained at Madre Selva for the duration of the internship, travelling only after the internship was complete. Fortunately, Madre Selva has no shortage of wonderful regional endemics, and with the launching of another new banding site just up the road, banders have had the opportunity to band some true specialties like

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*), Wrenthrush (*Zeledonia coronata*) Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (*Scytalopus argentifrons*), and Buff-fronted Quail-Dove (*Zentrygon costaricensis*). Additionally, they have been afforded great looks at some specialty birds like the Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) and Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridge (*Dendrortyx leucophrys*). Currently CRBO is seeking two more volunteers who would be interested in spending 2-3 months at its highland site in the cozy Madre Selva cabin, getting to know Costa Rica’s Talamancan endemics. If you are interested, please contact Holly Garrod at [holly@costaricabird.org](mailto:holly@costaricabird.org).

*Holly Garrod*  
*Research Coordinator -- Costa Rica Bird*  
*Observatories*

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ROCKY POINT BIRD  
OBSERVATORY



Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) is located at the southern tip of Vancouver Island near Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Being located on an island and thus geographically removed from the mainland meant that we were less impacted than other areas of the province and country. We quickly went to work developing procedures which it hoped would permit us to continue its field operations, as well as reach people in the community and farther afield.

The first casualty was our banding workshop, scheduled for late March. To stay connected with the banding and local communities, RPBO jumped on the Zoom bandwagon, initiating a series of Zoom presentations on numerous bird-related topics,