



2025 Golden Binocular Award recipients

The Chickering-Kimball Family, Massabesic Center, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman
Chris and Steve Chickering have been champion volunteers of our Eastern Bluebird Monitoring Program at the Massabesic Center since the early 2000s, with their children helping observe and collect data, too! Their family also cared for our now-passed raven ambassador for many years; Notably, Brynlee developed enrichment activities and provided a consistent supply of pigeon eggs that kept the raven well-cared for during his senior years.

Lindsay Herlihy, Conservation Department, nominated by Grace McCulloch
Lindsay Herlihy attended NH Audubon Summer Camp from the ages of 6 to 12, at which time she decided she needed to begin volunteering for the organization, a commitment to conservation that has not wavered as she has offered her time and talents in many ways. Starting as a Volunteer Naturalist, Lindsay has also worked on Project Nighthawk and as an eBird reviewer for sightings across New Hampshire, sharing her deep knowledge and generous spirit to educate and advance our understanding of New Hampshire's bird populations.

Will Lowenthal, Massabesic Center Gardens, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman
UNH Extension Master Gardener Will Lowenthal brings leadership, a sharp wit, and over 300 hours of dedicated time to the vegetable gardens at the Massabesic Center since 2022. If the arduous work of planning, planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting crops wasn't enough, will also teaches workshops on eco-friendly vegetable gardening, helps with events, and recently spent significant time and effort at home drying and cleaning out dozens of gourds harvested from Massabesic for kids to make birdhouses with.

Ben Masciarelli, Massabesic Center Grounds Crew, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman
Grounds Crew specialist Ben Masciarelli has kept the Massabesic sanctuary maintained for hikers and campers for almost two decades. His dedication and love for the property shows and is greatly appreciated, as he spends hot summer days mowing the grounds, keeping benches and signposts clear of bittersweet and poison ivy, and offering friendly smiles to our visitors and staff.

Jason Phelps, Massabesic Center Gardens, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman
UNH Extension Master Gardener Jason Phelps joined the garden team after attending a workshop at the Massabesic Center, and quickly rooted into our veggie team, amassing over 100 labor-intensive volunteer hours in under two years. Quick to lend a hand with events, workshops, and projects, Jason notably brought new life to our severely neglected pergola vines, and has taken the reins on the sanctuary's compost station, overseeing nutrient recycling from 100% of the plant waste generated by the gardens.

Walt Swist, Massabesic Center Gardens, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman

Over the past few years, UNH Extension Master gardener Walt Swist has made a tremendous impact in the vegetable garden at the Massabesic center, as well as in the surrounding community. Along with weeding, watering, helping with events, and taking beautiful photographs that he shares as motivation to the rest of the team, Walt is our primary crop harvester, tracking and delivering the garden's yield to the beneficiaries at New Horizons Food Distribution Center in Manchester, as well as to our own animal ambassadors. For context of the scale of food that our veggie team produces at Massabesic, walt delivered 470 pounds of food in 2022, 480 pounds in 2023, and 543 pounds in 2024, with a similar yield on track for 2025.