

2025 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award

Presented by Marc Nutter at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 13, 2025.

The John Thalheimer Volunteer Award has been presented annually since 1997. This award is dedicated to the first recipient, John Thalheimer, whose outstanding service to NH Audubon exemplified volunteer commitment, strengthened the organization, and provided an inspiring example for others.

I am honored to present the 2025 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award to Anne Forsyth. She has been sharing her time and talents as a volunteer with New Hampshire Audubon since April 2018.

Anne plays a critical role as a volunteer in our grants management program. She uses her research skills and attention to detail to identify various grant opportunities at the local, state and national levels that might be applicable funders for New Hampshire Audubon programs and projects. This could entail a small private grant from a local bank to a six-figure gift from a national foundation. Anne organizes all the information she sifts through and reports back at quarterly grants planning meetings. This includes compiling reports and grant deadlines for the coming quarter, background information on the grantor, past history of their grants, and requirements needed for a strong application. Anne also maintains a calendar of deadlines that includes upcoming grant applications and required reports for funders.

Anne has become so versed in the conservation and environmental education funding community that she is able to make effective recommendations and suggestions regarding which grants staff should submit applications.

Her hard work and continuous dedication to this research process have created a very well-organized, efficient system allowing New Hampshire Audubon to take maximum advantage of all appropriate grant opportunities.

Over time, Anne has broadened a system that was originally created for only the Conservation Department to now encompass the whole organization. She does all of this with good humor, and good sense. She is enjoyable to work with and truly dedicated to New Hampshire Audubon.



Anne Forsyth accepting the 2025 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award at the Massabesic Center in Auburn.

Photo by Zoe Dawson.

Before the pandemic, Anne traveled to Concord once a week from Roxbury, Massachusetts. During COVID, she maintained full volunteer activity from home. Being able to work remotely has provided increased flexibility, which works well for her. In FY25 she gave over 135 hours on grant work.

Although Anne is not in the office as often, staff see her at McLane and around the state at events. She has been a longtime member and supporter of New Hampshire Audubon since 1997. She is a passionate advocate and ambassador for the organization including in Randolph, where she and her husband David spend time and enjoy birding together.

The Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to a volunteer whose outstanding service to New Hampshire Audubon both strengthens the organization and is an inspiring example for others. As an organization that depends on private grants and philanthropy to sustain our mission, Anne has truly strengthened the organization with her involvement in our grants program. Her deep knowledge of New Hampshire Audubon programmatic priorities AND funder's priorities continue to be an asset to our philanthropy team.

On behalf of everyone at New Hampshire Audubon, I would like to share our gratitude and appreciation for your volunteer efforts, Anne. Thank you! And I am proud to present you with the 2025 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award.

