



2023 Golden Binocular Award recipients

Cathryn Abbott and Coleen Lawlor, Eastern Meadowlark Monitors, nominated by Pam Hunt
Cat and Coleen were instrumental in monitoring state-threatened Eastern Meadowlarks at a farm in Charlestown. Thanks to their sometimes-last-minute efforts and willingness to engage with farmers, we were able to delay the mowing of over 10 acres of hayfield so that meadowlarks could successfully raise their young in the summer of 2023.

Dee Cleary, Massabesic Center Volunteer, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman and Hope Jordan
Dee has been a loyal volunteer for 20 years, serving on the Massabesic Advisory Committee, staffing events, meticulously stewarding our Massabesic Center gardens (one of her sculptures is featured in the Garden for the Senses next to some of those fabulous peonies), and providing general wisdom and support of our mission. Dee has also tirelessly stewarded annual sponsorships from her employer, Sunrise Labs, doubling and then quadrupling their support since 2020, and encouraged NH Audubon to join NH Businesses for Social Responsibility, a business community that shares our values.

Unity Dienes, Volunteer Naturalist, nominated by Becky Suomala
Unity has volunteered for New Hampshire Bird Records and eBird but most significantly, she was one of two Volunteer Naturalists when COVID hit, answering calls and emails from people about birds and other natural history topics. She continued to work from home, checking email, researching answers, and calling people from her own phone as needed - providing critical help during a challenging time when there were few other options for NH Audubon.

Joe Grande, Bald Eagle Monitor, nominated by Chris Martin
Joe has been an NH Audubon volunteer for six years, with over 1,000 cumulative hours spent paddling the Connecticut River, visiting nesting sites, and documenting conservation efforts. Joe is a great asset to the Bald Eagle monitoring program and works with little direction and a lot of enthusiasm.

Ben Griffith, New Hampshire Bird Records Season Editor, nominated by Becky Suomala
Ben has been a Season Editor for New Hampshire Bird Records since 2011, beginning with the spring season and then transitioning to the longer fall season, which is four months in the bird world, encompassing the southbound migration. He not only analyzes and writes up the bird highlights from the fall season but also reviews all the unusual eBird records – a huge job that keeps getting bigger every year.

Stephanie Hanson, Massabesic Center Volunteer, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman
Stephanie has been a Massabesic Center volunteer for about a decade, who in turn raised two fantastic volunteers (now Camp Staff Members) in their own right. Stephanie embodies the level of communication and independence that makes an ideal volunteer, revitalizing and enhancing the holiday wreath program, reengaging and building our volunteer team, and fostering connections with the garden teams (including facilitation a new

partnership with the Massabesic Garden Club and becoming a UNH Extension Master Gardener) to support the program and our mission.

Susan MacLeod, New Hampshire Bird Records Copy Editor, nominated by Becky Suomala

Susan has been volunteering for New Hampshire Bird Records as an outstanding copy editor for about 30 years, since her husband began working for NH Audubon and we discovered her editing skills. She is knowledgeable about birds and locates errors that other editors would miss, making the publication better.

Brenda McMahon, Massabesic Center Volunteer, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman

Brenda joined us around 2005, when she began helping the Massabesic Center with feeding frog ambassadors, monitoring bluebird nests, and working our events; but her standout contribution has been in keeping the grounds and trails mowed and welcoming. Brenda uses her own tools to weed whack trails and braves poison ivy to reduce the spread of invasives, even providing gasoline for the mowers. She always has a pair of binoculars, ready to share a dazzling display of wings with visitors.

Sandy McIntyre, Pollinator Garden volunteer, nominated by Diane Deluca

Sandy has been very generous in sharing her extensive knowledge of plants and gardening. She has supported our pollinator gardens and the rest of our garden team in countless ways and jumps in whenever there is a need.

Tom McShane, Northern Harrier and Bald Eagle Monitor, nominated by Chris Martin

Tom has been a key volunteer in the Northern Harrier project over the past several years, assisting in fledgling surveys in Coos County as well as working independently to explore several potential breeding sites in central New Hampshire. Tom has also gotten involved in Bald Eagle nest site monitoring in and around the White Mountains.

Marie Nickerson, New Hampshire Bird Records Proof Reader, nominated by Becky Suomala

Marie has been volunteering for 33 years (since January of 1990), beginning with office tasks for New Hampshire Bird Records. She became a proofreader back in the days before computers and email when she had to pick up a paper copy at Becky Suomala's house. She has continued over the years through many changes and remains a dedicated volunteer.

Stepanie Parkinson, Volunteer Naturalist, nominated by Becky Suomala

Stephanie is a long-term volunteer who has done numerous jobs, but most recently she has been a Volunteer Naturalist answering calls and emails from people about birds and other natural history topics. She was one of only two Volunteer Naturalists when COVID hit, and she continued to work from home, checking email, researching answers, and calling people from her own phone - providing critical help during a challenging time when there were few other options for NH Audubon.

Ellie Peabody, Pollinator Garden Volunteer, nominated by Diane Deluca

Ellie is a dedicated pollinator garden volunteer who brings a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to her work in the garden and her interactions with the garden team. Her creativity and joy for gardening have resulted in many important new initiatives to share the importance of native plants and pollinators.

Jane Rice, NHA Lakes Region Chapter President, nominated by Doug Bechtel

Jane has been a member and leader of the Lakes Region Chapter of NHA for decades. Her service includes organizing and leading field walks and managing the Lakes Region Chapter logistics faithfully and loyally. This community service has resulted in great benefit for Lakes Region Birders, NH Audubon, and the Loon Preservation Committee.

Mark Timmerman, Peregrine Falcon Monitor, nominated by Chris Martin

Over the past 8 years, Mark has been integral to the Peregrine program and the primary observer of the nest on the Manchester/Beford town line. Without his careful monitoring, we would not have known to reach out to NH DOT to install a nesting tray on the underside of the bridge, which has led to increased nesting success.