



2024 Golden Binocular Award recipients

Doris Buco, Massabesic Center Gardens, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman

For the past several years, Doris has taken on leadership roles over both the Massabesic Center gardens and its volunteers, becoming an invaluable partner. Doris excels in every aspect of the gardens in which she's involved, which is all of it: organizing and communicating with volunteers to digging out weeds, organizing presenters and garden booth attendees at events to long-term visioning for future habitat improvements.

Zeke Cornell, Project Nighthawk, nominated by Becky Suomala

Zeke Cornell took over the NH Audubon Capital Chapter's fall Common Nighthawk Migration Watch in 2017 and since then has spent every evening from mid-August through the first week of September on the roof counting migrating nighthawks. He has also helped with Project Nighthawk's nesting season monitoring since 2013, conducts an annual whip-poor-will survey, and helps with eBird review.

Gino Caretti, Purple Martin Monitor, nominated by Pamela Hunt

Gino has been helping with the seacoast Purple Martin colonies since 2018. In the last couple of years, he has taken over primary responsibility for the Seabrook colony, including training new volunteers.

Lisa Dumont, Massabesic Center Gardens, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman

Lisa has been supporting the Massabesic Center in a variety of roles: supporting our Earth Day event, creating (and teaching others to make) stunning holiday wreaths for our annual fundraiser, and cooking for volunteer potlucks. Most notably, Lisa has been intrinsic to the redesign and ongoing stewardship of several garden spaces, including the Garden for the Senses and the Cathy Small Memorial Garden; her attention to detail and the impact to visitors' experiences is evident in every project she works on.

Heather McKendry, Gertrude Keith Hoyt & Edward Eaton Hoyt, Jr. Sanctuary Steward, nominated by Anita Fernandez

Heather has been self-managing the Hoyt Sanctuary in Madison for over ten years, clearing debris, cutting blown-down trees from trails, building a footbridge across Little Brook, working with companies to get repairs handled, and even recruiting others to help in her efforts. Through Heather's dedication to this property, she has ensured visitors a wonderful destination in which to relax and enjoy nature.

Walt Milne, Massabesic Sanctuary Steward, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman

Walt has been a steward of the Massabesic Center even before NH Audubon, and is always willing to bring his time, skill, and own equipment to the sanctuary to continue that care - whether to mow the fields for a week straight every fall, or to tackle multiflora rose and Oriental Bittersweet incursions. We are indebted to Walt for his continued guidance as a member of the Massabesic Advisory Committee and for his friendly help with events and maintenance projects.

Marilyn Rix, Massabesic Sanctuary Steward, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman

Marilyn (and her husband Bill) have been the best Massabesic Center next-door neighbors: hosting and monitoring bluebird boxes, assisting with mowing and events, and becoming involved with the gardens. What Marilyn has tackled though, are two huge projects that could not have been accomplished without her. In 2022, she organized, cleaned, and cleared the massively overpacked farmhouse building, and then immediately moved on to identifying and cataloguing our taxidermy and bird egg collections.

Stacey Scaccia, Massabesic Center Gardens, nominated by Kimmie Whiteman

Stacey's passion for pollinators permeates everything she does with NH Audubon. Since 2019, Stacey has been involved in long-term planning and care for several garden spaces and she doesn't stop there; she also volunteers at events, assists with monarch nano-tagging, educates the public about the importance of pollinators and native plants, and even finds time to check in on the well-being of our staff.

Mark Suomala, Project Nighthawk, nominated by Becky Suomala

Mark has volunteered for NH Audubon in different capacities over many years, leading field trips and helping to raise funds for New Hampshire Bird Records. He has been a stalwart volunteer for Project Nighthawk, helping to haul gravel for nighthawk nest patches in 2007 and 2008, then conducting surveys nearly every year since then.

Jim Sparrell & Katie Towler, New Hampshire Bird Records Editors, nominated by Becky Suomala

Jim Sparrell and Katie Towler have been the Winter Season Editors for New Hampshire Bird Records since the winter of 2016-17. They not only analyze and write up the bird highlights from the winter season, but also review all the unusual eBird records, which is a huge job that keeps getting bigger every year.