

2018 John Thalheimer Volunteer of the Year Award

As presented by President Doug Bechtel at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 15, 2018.

The John Thalheimer Volunteer of the Year 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.

The 2018 award is presented to Robert A. Quinn.

This year's award is long overdue! Bob Quinn has been volunteering for NH Audubon for more than 40 years. He started at NH Audubon as a volunteer, took a nine-year break when he became a staff member, and then resumed, continuing to this day as an active volunteer for the organization. There aren't many volunteer jobs he hasn't done, but many people first met Bob on one of the innumerable field trips he has lead or at his beginning birding workshops. He freely shares his extensive bird knowledge and is always inspiring others to volunteer for NH Audubon's bird conservation efforts and to support the organization.

In the 1980s he volunteered for the Breeding Bird Atlas as a data researcher, field volunteer and member of the Data Review Committee. He was a volunteer Summer Editor for NH Audubon's publication *New Hampshire Bird Records* for more than 10 years and continues to write articles for almost every issue. He has carried buckets of gravel up onto rooftops for Project Nighthawk and wandered Mast Yard State Forest in the dark doing whip-poor-will surveys with Pam Hunt.

He was a trustee for NH Audubon in the early 1990s, and the President of the Capital Area Chapter. He has given many programs for chapters across the state. He has served on many committees and is currently a member of the Library Task Force and the Awards Group.

With his deep knowledge of the organization, he is able to step in and represent NH Audubon in any number of circumstances – whether at EMS Club Days or on a North Country Field Trip speaking knowledgeably about Project Nighthawk. He may check a Peregrine Falcon or Bald Eagle nest on a trip to the North Country or visit a Sanctuary and report back on its condition.

He is an informal keeper of NH Audubon's history, providing information on members and birders who are no longer with us. He has helped educate new staff members and Presidents, providing history about people and the organization. Becky Suomala remembers Bob showing her the local birding spots when



Bob Quinn (left) receiving the 2018 John Thalheimer Volunteer of the Year Award from NH Audubon President, Doug Bechtel.

Photo by Dyanna Smith.

she was a young staff member and had just started working on *New Hampshire Bird Records* 30 years ago.

I learned to be grateful for Bob almost immediately when I started as NH Audubon's President two years ago. Bob introduced me to several Sanctuaries, he taught me the finer points of identifying birds by their songs, and he counseled me on leadership skills. He has also shown an incredible depth of humor and optimism while his integrity and resilience are true examples of quiet and effective leadership.

NH Audubon is so pleased to honor Bob Quinn's long service to the organization with the 2018 John Thalheimer Volunteer of the Year Award. It has long been well deserved!



*Bob Quinn with his grand-daughter –
“the reason we do all this.”*

Photo by Beth McGuinn.

