

## 2012 President's Award

*As presented by Michael Bartlett at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 29, 2012.*

One of the most enjoyable tasks of the Audubon president is giving the President's Award. This award recognizes a strong friend of Audubon, be it a group or individual, whose actions and commitment have significantly furthered the work of New Hampshire Audubon.



Pam Hunt (right), NH Dragonfly Survey Coordinator, congratulating her volunteers as they receive the 2012 President's Award. Photo by R.A. Quinn.

From 2007 to 2011, a small army of net-wielding “Dragonhunters” scoured our state’s wetlands in search of dragonflies and damselflies as part of the “New Hampshire Dragonfly Survey,” a joint project of NH Audubon and NH Fish and Game. In the course of this project, over 100 volunteers visited roughly 1,200 sites in 221 towns, and ultimately submitted 18,748 records of 157 species to the New Hampshire Dragonfly Survey (NHDS) database. The result is the first-ever comprehensive picture of dragonfly and damselfly distributions in the state, a picture that can be used to measure future change and guide conservation action. Some participants in the NHDS contributed exceptional effort and I’d like to recognize these volunteers today.

The following seven individuals each contributed well over 300 hours during the course of the NHDS. In combination, their 2,500 hours constitute 47% of the total volunteer hours recorded during the project. They drove 18,000 miles in the course of 1,400 field surveys, and are responsible for 6,200 records (one third of the database!). Since volunteer time and travel can count as in-kind match for grants and contracts, these totals are worth \$62,000 – just a little shy of the \$64,000 in actual funding received over the five years of the project.

But this isn’t just about the numbers. The numbers are merely one way of measuring the enthusiasm shown by all NHDS volunteers. These folks went out of their way to climb mountains, lose shoes in bogs, get eaten by bugs, and float down rivers – all the while keeping a wary eye out for a certain Killer Rabbit (the NHDS mascot who harassed observers to submit their data). They were truly “bitten by the dragonfly bug” (yes, often literally), and the fact that several continue to collect data after the NHDS is over is yet another indication of their new-found love for “odes.” In fact, we’re lucky that Annual Meeting is in late September, since otherwise it might have been hard to get these folks out of the field on a Saturday. I am honored to present the 2012 President’s Award to:

Holly Grant  
Betsy Hamlin-Morin  
Larry Potter  
Martha Reinhardt  
Tricia Saenger  
Dennis Skillman  
Scott Young