

## 2013 President's Award

*As presented by Michael Barlett at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 28, 2013.*

The President's Award recognizes a strong friend of New Hampshire Audubon whose actions and commitment have significantly furthered the work of the organization.

This recipient of the 2013 President's award is Margaret Watkins. Margaret has been an advocate for conservation and a passionate supporter of New Hampshire Audubon for over 30 years. She has been directly involved with the organization since 1983 when she joined the Environmental Policy Committee. Since then, she has been involved in peregrine and eagle monitoring, nighthawk studies, and acid rain issues. She has served in a variety of roles including Technical Editor of the *Atlas of Breeding Bird Atlas in New Hampshire*, Grant Writer for the Conservation Department, Grant Specialist for the entire organization and Interim Director of Development. "Interim" is actually a misnomer—Margaret was in the job for over two years and during one of those years brought in the largest annual fund New Hampshire Audubon had seen in over ten years.

In addition to her day job with New Hampshire Audubon, she took on key organizational projects that were in need of a strong and forward-thinking leader. These include overseeing "Engage with Nature" in July of 2012, a large-scale, multi-location event that celebrated the affiliation of the National Wildlife Federation and New Hampshire Audubon. She also initiated the planning process for our Centennial year, formed a volunteer committee and lead the preparations until our Centennial Coordinator was hired. She served as director of the strategic planning initiative that staff and board completed in early 2013 year and, in her spare time, led an effort to refurbish the facilities at the Massabesic Audubon Center. Margaret officially "retired" from her paid position with New Hampshire Audubon in July of 2013 but has remained active on a number of volunteer committees, and has remained a passionate supporter of New Hampshire Audubon's goals.

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2013 President's Award to Margaret Watkins.

