

2007 Goodhue-Elkins Award

As presented at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, June, 2007.

The Goodhue-Elkins Award is given annually by New Hampshire Audubon to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the study of New Hampshire birds. This award is named for Charles Goodhue, one of New Hampshire's first great birders, and Kimball Elkins, who remains the model for critical observation and insightful record keeping.

This year's recipient is Sandy Turner. Sandy's contribution and commitment to the study and welfare of New Hampshire birds is long and strong. She has been an avid birder here in New Hampshire since the early 1980s. Most importantly, she has transferred that abiding interest into the monitoring and documentation so essential to conservation of our state's bird populations.

The list of her contributions is long: winter eagle monitor on Great Bay in the 1980s; participant in New Hampshire Audubon's annual Osprey Weekend; organizer and then president of the Seacoast Chapter; field trip leader who also recruited others to do the same (including Steve Mirick for his first-ever trip!); long-term contributor to *New Hampshire Bird Records*; Regional Coordinator and author for New Hampshire Audubon's Breeding Bird Atlas; and author of *A Year with New England's Birds*.

She and her husband, Mark, were seasonal field biologists for bird surveys in the White Mountain National Forest, for Osprey surveys in the North Country, and eagle monitoring at Lake Umbagog. For the latter, she and Mark took up 24-hour duty soon after Bald Eagles returned to the state to nest after a 40-year DDT-induced absence—returning to the very same nest tree on Lake Umbagog that had, 40 years prior, hosted the state's last pair of nesting eagles. Avid hawk watchers, they also had a hand in setting up the Weeks State Park hawkwatch site, and putting Blue Job on the map as an important hawkwatch site.

Sandy is a longtime Breeding Bird Survey volunteer, with two ongoing routes near her home in Lyman, and she is a longstanding Christmas Bird Count volunteer. Her volunteer work continues with Rusty Blackbird surveys in Pittsburg, and Osprey monitoring along the upper Connecticut River.

Sandy is known for her willingness to step in whenever asked, no matter how short the notice. Carol Foss remembers surveying for endangered species along the proposed Hydro Quebec power lines. One contracted surveyor departed unexpectedly, and Sandy and Mark stepped into the breach, or more exactly into a boat on Moore and Comerford Reservoirs to do eagle surveys. Camping out under the returning eagles was another short-order job. One of Sandy and Mark's rewards for enduring 24-hour bugs and all kinds of weather was a Prothonotary Warbler sighting—in addition to the thrill of the state's returning eagles. As for the Rusty Blackbirds, Carol was going to do that survey when her husband Flip broke his back. With very short notice, Sandy and Mark took over the survey work.

In recognition of Sandy's contributions to the bird conservation work New Hampshire Audubon is honored to present her with the 2007 Kimball-Elkins Award.

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