

2020 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award

As presented by Chris Martin for the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 19, 2020.

The John Thalheimer Volunteer 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 2020 recipient of the John Thalheimer Volunteer Award is Jack Dorsey from Campton, NH. Jack is a retired school teacher, and a retired rock climber and distance runner. After he gave up those activities, he got into paddling and wildlife photography. He started sending photos to us in May of 2013, when he found a Bald Eagle in the Lakes Region being harassed by two Eastern Kingbirds. Over the next seven and a half years, Jack has been a raptor monitoring volunteer for the Conservation Department. With kayak and camera, Jack has focused mostly on Bald Eagles, but has also documented Ospreys, loons, and many other birds and other animals.

Taking “notes” with his camera, Jack has gathered information on Bald Eagle nests year-round. He has also generously donated many of his best images to us free-of-charge for use in our education, communications, and development projects. Jack’s unique set of talents – curiosity about the natural world, willingness to go just about anywhere, ability to strike up conversations with pretty much anybody he encounters outdoors – has enabled him to glean additional leads on potential nest sites. His physical stamina and his photographic talent, plus the fact that he’s got plenty of time to be outside, have combined to create a near-ideal volunteer!



Photo by Jack Dorsey



Jack Dorsey, recipient of the 2020 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award.

Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

At one level, Jack’s photos are indeed a source of biological data. But in addition, his images are quite simply stunning. Over the years, he’s shared with us literally hundreds of amazing pictures from his visits to more than 30 separate Bald Eagle breeding territories, ranging from Littleton and Lisbon in the North Country, to Hebron and Ossipee in the Lakes Region, to Dover and Hampton on the Seacoast.



© Jack Dorsey

Besides use in Conservation Department publications, Jack's photos have also found their way into NH Audubon's eNews, Facebook, and other Communication products. His images have been used as masthead for annual funding appeals. Others have enhanced NH Fish & Game Department publications and various media releases about raptors. Jack is modest, and soft-spoken, and a delight to supervise. And he's dedicated ... in Spring 2016, cataract surgery on both eyes kept him sidelined for just two weeks!



© Jack Dorsey

Through sharing his photographs, Jack has made important in-kind contributions to NH Audubon, and for that we are very, very grateful. I couldn't be more pleased to be able to present the 2020 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award to Jack Dorsey.



Jack Dorsey (left) receiving the 2020 John Thalheimer Volunteer Award from Chris Martin in the year of COVID-19.

Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

A sampling of photos by Jack Dorsey.



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