

ENDURING DEDICATION TO COVERTS GOALS

The Ruffed Grouse Society



In 1984, The Ruffed Grouse Society gave its first grant to the University of Vermont to support Thom McEvoy's efforts in setting up Vermont's Coverts program. It is hard to believe that, at the time, either Thom or RGS could imagine the scope and enduring quality of the commitment being made. As Vermont Coverts gradually took form and gathered statewide support and enthusiasm from its small but steadily growing corps of Cooperators, RGS generously continued the grants – providing Vermont Coverts the bulk of its early income. And when in 1993, Coverts fledged in its nest at UVM, spread its wings and took flight as a 501(c)(3) organization, RGS didn't blink, continuing to share and support our mission, knowing that our aspirations for independence would not take financial form for a number of years. As Coverts gradually and tentatively began to raise its own funds, the checks from RGS

continued to underpin our efforts with solid and dependable support, ending only after Coverts had established a firm measure of financial independence – with the help of many of those here today. Between 1984 and 2003, year by year, the Ruffed Grouse Society granted over \$200,000 to Vermont Coverts.

With great gratitude, this award is presented in recognition of the remarkable commitment of the RGS to the conservation of Vermont's wildlife and Vermont Coverts.

John McNerney, President – September 25, 2010