



Vermont Coverts Woodlands for Wildlife

Tina Barney went through the Coverts Training with her partner, Sara White in 2011. She has excelled as a Coverts Cooperator, both on their 170 acres in Hartland and in her community.

Tina, elected to the Coverts Council as class rep, remained on the Council for eight years, serving as Secretary for five. Tina also took on the role of Local Contact Cooperator for Windsor County where she organized many workshops, often in cooperation with other organizations. These included a broad range of topics from birds and pollinators to coyotes and climate change. Throughout her tenure on the Council, Tina could always be counted on to ask questions, clarifying and bringing in different perspectives. Most recently, she was involved with the Coverts website update.

Tina is an active member of the Hartland Conservation Commission further sharing her commitment to the Coverts mission. She is also a Citizen Scientist contributor to eBird.

Jon Bouton, former Windsor County Forester and Coverts Council member shares: “Tina has shown us how Coverts works. I believe she and Sara learned about Vermont Audubon’s Forest Bird initiative through her connection with Coverts. They not only signed up for a Forest Bird Assessment but took their new knowledge to the next level. Tina organized several forest bird workshops on their land that were too good to miss. After one on birding by ear, she wrote a cheerful follow-up note to all participants including a list of the 42 bird species we identified, thereby carrying the enthusiasm and information beyond the day of the workshop. This is typical of Tina’s whole-hearted commitment to the VT Coverts goal of spreading knowledge about wildlife stewardship through peer-to-peer contacts.”

Cooperator James Stack notes, “On a rare occasion a blue bird, a Baltimore Oriole, an American Goldfinch [insert any bird you’d like] crosses my path. I sing back to them ‘tee teen a baa n eee, tee teen a baa n ee’ because of a repeated, melodic request by Ms. Barney to host Coverts workshops at my home. She has inspired me, a long-term board member and Cooperator, to continue to participate. We need people like Tina to remind us of our calling and training.”

Coverts Cooperator and Linking Lands Alliance Co-founder, Karen Douville, sums it up well: “No one deserves the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award more than Tina. She is always reaching out to others, sharing information about wildlife, and protecting wildlife habitats. She has hosted numerous spring birding and habitat walks on her property, and more recently reached out to her neighbors to protect the high priority habitat blocks surrounding their neighborhood.”

In recognition of her enthusiasm and dedication to wildlife and Vermont Coverts we hereby present

Tina Barney

The David Clarkson Award for Outstanding Cooperator of the Year