



UNITING PEOPLE & SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION

2008 Annual Report

"Field Notes, Vol. 1, Issue 2, is solid evidence that VCE has made exhilarating steps to becoming a thoughtful, well-structured organization." ~VCE Supporter

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2008 was a banner year for VCE in every way. Not only did we maintain our core wildlife projects and diversify our ambitious research agenda, but we kept our citizens scientists engaged, solidified partnerships with scores of professional colleagues, and offered hands-on field training to young conservationists from Vermont to Hispaniola. Importantly, we ended our fiscal year in the black and are poised to weather the current economic storm in solid shape. As you will see in this report, contributions from hundreds of individuals like you constitute our financial lifeblood. VCE will continue to need your help as we expand our conservation efforts in Vermont, the Northeast and beyond.

We sincerely thank all our supporters.

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies advances the conservation of wildlife through research, monitoring and citizen engagement.

VCE's Mountain Birdwatch Program brought together stakeholders across New England and Canada to pilot a ground-breaking range wide monitoring protocol that will set the standard for North America.



The Forest Bird Monitoring Program completed its 20th year of monitoring Vermont's interior forest bird populations.

VCE secured funding to launch Vermont's first statewide mapping of vernal pools; only one other state has completed a similar statewide inventory. Results will facilitate conservation of these critical but vulnerable wetland habitats in Vermont.

*"I loved your VCE Field Notes—
read every bit of it—a really
great account of what you are
doing—very interesting, very
professional"*

~VCE Supporter



150 Mountain Birdwatch volunteers spent over 1,200 hours hiking the mountains of Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire and Maine to monitor high elevation song birds.



Citizen Scientists volunteered over 200 hours at National and Historic Parks in New England, observing a total of 2,012 individual birds of 94 species.

VCE partnered with the National Biological Information Infrastructure to create an innovative internet tool that will digitally bring together invertebrate specimens housed across Vermont. With the click of a mouse, individuals will be able to access valuable information from over two million Vermont invertebrate specimen records.

Highlights

VCE received a prestigious National Geographic Society grant that led to an intensive study of the Bobolink in its mid west breeding area and South American wintering grounds.

VCE assigned a “conservation status” to every butterfly species in Vermont for the Nongame and Natural Heritage office.



VCE brought together scientists and natural resource managers from throughout the breeding range of Bicknell Thrush's to develop a Conservation Action Plan for the species. This type of stakeholder collaboration sets a new standard for conservation partnerships.



“As an avid birder it is comforting for me to know that crucial environmental research continues not only here in Vermont, but beyond its borders.”

~VCE Volunteer

Vermont's loon population continued its 25-year upward trajectory, as a record high 86 pairs occupied lake territories statewide. Three of the 61 loon pairs that attempted to breed were first-time nesters. Volunteers counted a record 225 loons on Loonwatch day in mid-July.

VCE brought 4 Haitian and Dominican biologists to Vermont to learn conservation field techniques that will help conserve some of Vermont's song-birds on their wintering grounds.



VCE partnered with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to list two species of butterfly in the White Mountains as either threatened or endangered and created educational materials aimed at informing thousands of visitors.

2008 Revenue*

Restricted Project Income

Federal Contracts 55,491

State Contracts 80,995

Other Grants/Contracts 86,567

Program Income 3,897

Donations

Individual Gifts 250,024

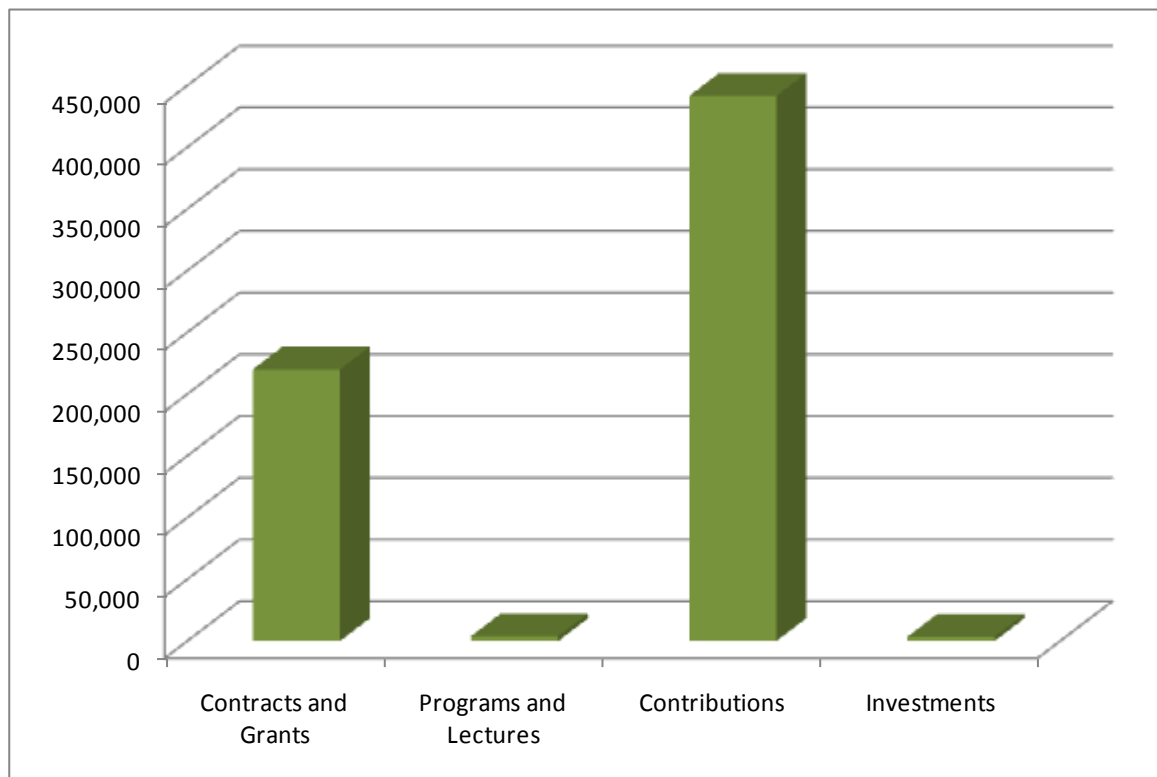
Business Gifts 6,284

Foundation Gifts 182,350

Gifts in Kind 403

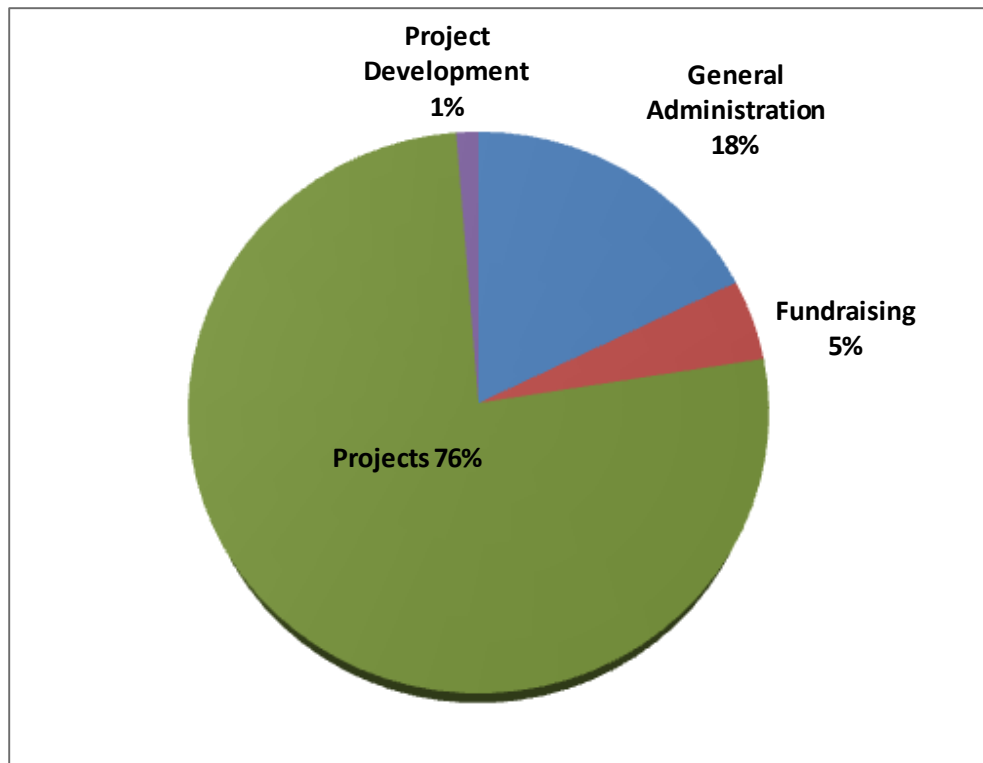
Investments 3,417

Total Income **669,428**



** VCE 2008 financials are currently being audited by an independent firm.*

2008 Expenses*



Personnel Expenses		
Salaries and Wages		310,169.44
Paid Benefits		42,453.38
Staff Development		832.92
Business Expenses		
Contract Services		42,892.06
Supplies		13,999.59
Telephone		3,700.95
Computer Network		3,068.33
Printing & Copying		8,004.67
Marketing and Mailing Costs		6,199.49
Travel Costs		30,678.15
Meeting & Entertainment		1,265.29
Equipment and Depreciation		14,576.00
Facilities Expense		7,863.00
Insurance		2,628.88
Interest and Bank Fees		720.68
Miscellaneous Expense		<u>1,051.65</u>
Total Expense		<u><u>490,826.90</u></u>

VCE wishes to thank its contributors and partners.

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"Thanks for the opportunity to make this donation in memory of my dad. He would have loved what VCE is doing! Thanks again!"
 ~VCE Supporter

If you would like to volunteer as a Citizen Scientist, please call Julie at
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VCE apologizes for any mistakes or omissions.

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