

2009 Annual Report



Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/2009

Uniting People and Science for Conservation

"The recent newsletter was just fabulous.....shows so well the diversity of your research, of how wide a net you've cast, the diversity and talents of the staff, as well the brief accounts of the volunteers, and the importance of citizen science.." ~VCE Supporter

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Chris Rimmer
Judith Scarl
Sara Zahendra



UVM's Allan Strong and VCE's Roz Renfrew placing a geolocator on a Bobolink

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VCE ended 2009 – our second full year of existence – in strong shape. Staff achieved tangible progress towards our ambitious wildlife research and conservation agenda. We solidified our core initiatives, diversified our breadth, and added several innovative dimensions. Importantly, we kept our citizen scientists engaged, strengthened our numerous collaborations, and broadly communicated our results through an array of channels. We weathered 2009's challenging economic climate and again ended our fiscal year in the black – we are poised to enjoy a robust 2010. As this report highlights, contributions from a legion of individuals like you constitute VCE's programmatic and financial lifeblood. Your continued support will be instrumental as we expand our conservation programs across the Americas.

We sincerely thank each and every one of our supporters.

"Thanks for all your great work! You all make a terrific team."

~VCE Partner

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

www.vtecostudies.org

2009 Highlights

VCE hired two new employees to begin 2010. Judith Scarl took the helm of Mountain Birdwatch and Sara Zahendra provides invaluable assistance with an array of projects as our Biological Technician.



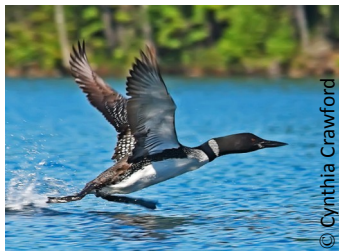
Sara Zahendra

VCE biologists coordinated an invited symposium at the 2009 American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Philadelphia, presenting two scientific papers.



Judith Scarl

Thanks to the Vermont Loon Recovery Project and its dedicated volunteers, 66 loon pairs attempted nesting, and 53 successfully hatched 83 eggs, with a record 74 chicks surviving through August.



"...it is gratifying to see the progress that has been made in protecting loons...We realize, however, that threats and challenges to loon well-being remain..."

~VCE Supporter



VCE staff and partners used cutting edge technology to unravel the mysteries of songbird migration by attaching 36 solar geolocators to adult Bicknell's Thrushes in the Green and Catskill Mountains, and coordinating with our Canadian colleagues to mark 34 birds in Quebec and the Maritimes. We deployed another 45 geolocators on Bobolinks in Vermont, Nebraska and Oregon.



Staff co-organized a community conservation workshop and held two intensive weeklong field training workshops in the Dominican Republic to help build the capacity of our Dominican and Haitian colleagues.

The Vermont Vernal Pool Mapping Project identified 830 potential vernal pools across the northern 6 counties of Vermont and trained nearly 150 volunteers to field-verify them.

2010 Upcoming Highlights

VCE staff will undertake the development of a 5-year strategic plan to solidify our directions and proactively meet upcoming conservation needs, making the best use of donor contributions.



VCE biologists hope to recover at least 50% of the geolocators deployed on Bobolinks and Bicknell's Thrushes in 2009 to retrieve ground-breaking information on migratory routes, timing, and wintering locations.



The second generation Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas will complete final design elements to create a website and a state-of-the-art book on the status of breeding birds in Vermont.



"Thanks for the wonderful work you do and for sharing with all of us."

~VCE Volunteer



From 2002 to 2007 volunteer butterfly enthusiasts spent thousands of hours afield in an effort to record the status and distribution of Vermont butterflies, the first systematic statewide butterfly atlas ever to be undertaken. In 2010 we will share these data with students, land managers, policy makers, naturalists, scientists and others on the VBS web page.

The International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group will disseminate its finalized action plan to policy-makers, land managers, biologists and others to begin implementation of a unified range wide strategy to conserve this vulnerable species and its habitats for future generations.



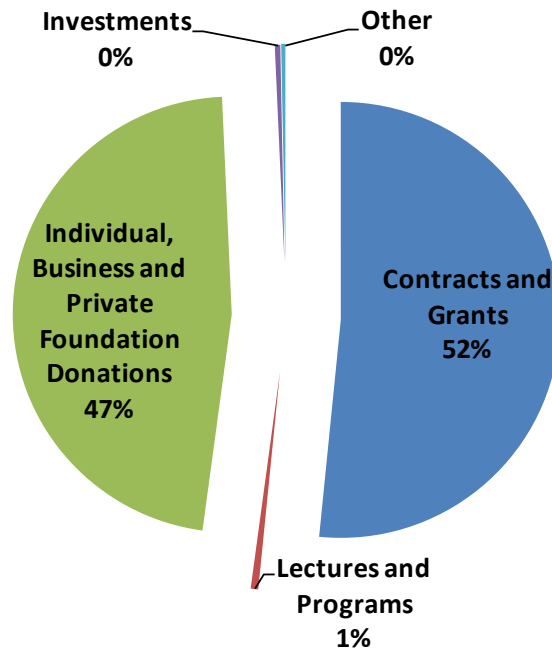
The Mountain Birdwatch Project will establish over 400 new survey points across the mountains of the Northeast and launch Mountain Birdwatch 2.0, featuring revised and more rigorous monitoring protocols for montane birds.

VCE Financials

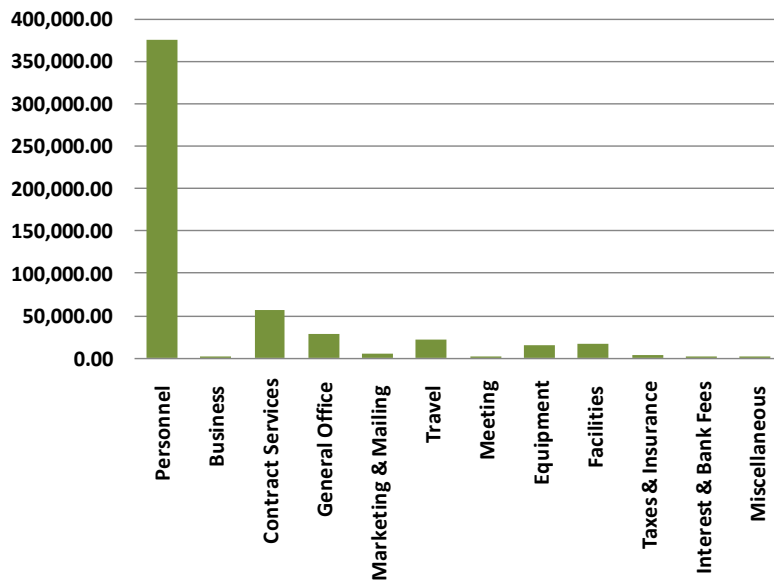
2009 Revenue Sources

*VCE thanks its contributors
for their continued
support of our important
conservation work.*

Contracts, Grants and Foundations	274,470
Lectures and Programs	2,964
Individuals, Businesses and Private Foundations	250,857
Investments	2,159
Other	1,625
Income	532,074



2009 Expense Categories



Personnel	376,224
Business	2,047
Contract Services	57,095
General Office	28,449
Marketing & Mailing	4,643
Travel	21,915
Meeting	1,903
Equipment	15,372
Facilities	16,375
Taxes & Insurance	3,607
Interest & Bank Fees	511
Miscellaneous	625
Expense	528,766

*VCE strives to minimize expenses, to ensure that your contribution achieves
the greatest conservation impact possible.*

VCE 2009 Statistics of Interest

45 Bobolinks and 70 adult Bicknell's Thrushes in VT, NY, NE, OR, and Canada received miniature solar geolocators in the hopes of yielding critical information on migratory patterns and population connectivity.

20 Whip-poor-will Volunteers surveyed 18 routes throughout VT as part of a region-wide monitoring effort.

28 Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas Volunteers wrote species accounts;
18 Volunteer Editors reviewed them.

30 Game Wardens assisted the Vermont Loon Recovery Project.

Nearly **700 individuals, businesses and private foundations** supported VCE with at least one financial contribution in 2009.

At least **48 pounds** of Bird Friendly® coffee were sipped at the VCE office.

558,649 birds of 285 species were reported to Vermont eBird.

120 Adopt-a-lake Volunteers monitored loons during the summer months.

VCE biologists published **5 papers** in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

11 Birdathon Teams raised \$5,000 in one day to support VCE's programs.

20 Forest Bird Monitoring Volunteers spent over 200 hours surveying breeding birds at 10 different National Parks, tallying 2,989 individual birds of 107 species.

VCE staff presented **37 lectures or programs** in VT, NH, NY, MA and PA.

60 Vernal Pool Mapping Project Volunteers field-verified and collected data on 85 vernal pools in northern VT.

1 Volunteer organized 35,000 butterfly records for the Vermont Butterfly Atlas.

52 Bicknell's Thrushes and **44 Blackpoll Warblers** were banded in the mountains of the Northeast; **20 Bicknell's Thrushes** and **195** resident individuals were banded in the mountains of the Dominican Republic.

185 Loonwatch Volunteers counted 228 adult loons on Vermont's lakes and ponds.

2 loons were rescued from fishing line and 1 from a pond that was too small to allow take-off.

VCE staff consumed at least **200 bags** of potato and tortilla chips at the lunch table.

6 veterinarians, 2 wildlife rehabilitators, 1 waterbird specialist and the staffs of Tufts and VINS were on call to assist with loon emergencies.

167 Mountain Birdwatch Volunteers spent over 1,200 hours hiking the mountains of VT, MA, NY, NH and ME to monitor high-elevation songbirds.

47,283 birds of 249 species were reported to Hispaniola eBird.

*"Thanks for the great work that you do. We really enjoy the newsletter,
and try to attend any talks given by your staff" ~VCE Volunteer*

VCE wishes to thank its contributors and partners.

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In Honor of Eloise B. Miller
In Honor of Judy Peterson
In Honor of Lillian Risken
In Honor of Frank Shaw



VCE Supporters search for the elusive Bicknell's Thrush on Stratton Mountain.

In Memory of Julie Nicholson



Julie Nicholson travelling with friends in Africa.

Julie Nicholson was one of VCE's most dedicated citizen scientists, and a great friend.

She was extraordinarily passionate and committed to birds and wildlife conservation. We at VCE miss her dearly.

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If you would like to volunteer as a citizen scientist, please contact Sara:
szahendra@vtecostudies.org
 802-649-1431

In Memory of William Wilson



With special thanks to Craig Snapp for this poignant photo, taken late summer 2008: Bill at East Long Pond.

Bill Wilson was an active volunteer for the Vermont Loon Recovery Project. He and his partner, Lil Brewster, loved their loon pair on East Long Pond.

Anonymous (2)
 Robert Gunn and Marianne Huss
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VCE Events

Field Ornithology Course

April 29–June 5

The Montshire Museum of Science, Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), and Cornell Lab of Ornithology are teaming up to offer this world-class program on birding and bird behavior. For more information: www.vtecostudies.org

Birdathon 2010

Once again, Team VCE will take to the field in May to celebrate the return of our migratory birds. We invite you to get out and join us for Birdathon 2010. Form your own Birdathon team and enjoy a spring day outside, or sponsor the VCE team. For more information: www.vtbirdathon.org.

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