



⋖ Upland Sandpiper sporting her solar-

GO KONZA, GO!

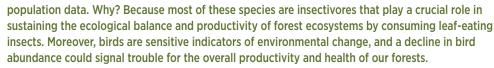
In 2018, VCE's Rosalind Renfrew and Jason Hill invited the public to join them, via blogs and social media, as they live-tracked a freeliving Upland Sandpiper over a full year. Affectionately known as "Konza" in honor of the Konza Prairie in Kansas, where she was fitted for her solar-powered geolocator, this sandpiper gained a devout social media following as hundreds of readers eagerly awaited VCE's updates on her whereabouts.

The Upland Sandpiper is a long-distance migratory

and travels 6,000 miles to southern South America each winter. Logging this particular bird's movements not only refined our understanding and appreciation of the species' extraordinary migration, but shed crucial light on habitat conservation considerations along its entire migration route. Watching Konza's progress unfold in real time underscored that management of migratory birds must be coordinated at continental, and even hemispheric, scales. Learn more at vtecostudies.org/blog/ live-updates-tracking-upland-

Vermont Forest Bird Monitoring— Three Decades of Data

VCE's Vermont Forest Bird Monitoring Program (FBMP) is one of the continent's longest-running studies of forest bird population trends. With the help of citizen science volunteers skilled in bird identification, the FBMP has systematically monitored songbirds in unmanaged, interior forests since 1989, amassing 30 years of



So, what have we found in 30 years? Although by most accounts Vermont forests are healthy and robust, overall bird abundance on our study sites has declined slightly. And, while some species have responded favorably to our maturing forests, others have not. The most troubling sign is a significant decline in aerial insectivores—birds such as flycatchers that specialize in feeding on flying insects captured on the wing. This finding corroborates a widespread trend that ornithologists have documented within this group of birds, suggesting that broad-scale changes in insect populations



VERMONT LOON CONSERVATION PROJECT

YEAR IN REVIEW

With a legion of volunteers and partners, the Vermont Loon Conservation Project has monitored and managed the state's Common Loon population for over four decades. Our work brought loons from the brink of extirpation in 1983 (only seven nesting pairs statewide) to the thriving, secure population documented in 2018. While 2017 racked up record numbers of nests and chicks, 2018 saw a record number of adult loons counted on our annual LoonWatch day-356 (up from 308 in 2017)!

OUT OF 123 TERRITORIAL PAIRS NESTED*

*25 NESTED ON RAFTS, 30 ON ISLANDS 27 IN MARSHES & 9 ON SHORELINES

66 PAIRS HATCHED

EGGS

CHICKS SURVIVED THROUGH **AUGUST**

NEW NESTING PAIRS WERE IDENTIFIED*

LAKE LAKOTA, MITCHELL LAKE, OLD MARSH POND & LAKE PARKER

200

VOLUNTEERS TOOK PART IN LOONWATCH DAY

THE ANNUAL STATEWIDE

LOON CONSERVATION PRESENTATIONS WERE **DELIVERED TO OVER**

may be the driving force, rather than effects of habitat loss or disease. Only by continued powered shorebird that breeds in northern sandpiper-trans-hemisphericmonitoring will we know if this trend persists or levels off as VCE and other researchers investigate 350 PEOPLE STATEWIDE satellite geolocator. North American grasslands migration. the causal factors, vtecostudies.org/projects/forests/vermont-forest-bird-monitoring-program

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