

Kevin Tolan Member Spotlight



Kevin Tolan (he/him) is currently serving with the [Vermont Center for Ecostudies](#) (VCE) in Norwich, VT as their Vernal Pool Monitor and Grassland Bird Outreach Coordinator. He grew up in coastal Maine exploring the outdoors, looking for salamanders, and building forts in the woods, and continued his interest in the outdoors while studying at University of Vermont pursuing a degree in Wildlife Biology and a minor in Forestry. He began his service with ECO after graduating in May of 2019 to pursue his passion for environmental stewardship and ecological conservation. At VCE he is the primary coordinator for the [Vermont Vernal Pool Monitoring Project](#) (VPMon) as well as the [New England Grassland Ambassadors](#). Both projects involve the engagement of volunteer citizen scientists across the region to gather data to provide outreach and assistance for landowners and conservation efforts. The important data gathered through these projects also allow Kevin and staff at VCE to provide essential resources to the Vermont community and greater New England region. On his transition to teleservice, Kevin pivoted his outreach events quickly and planned, coordinated, and hosted many online webinars to educate community members on vernal pool ecology and grassland bird conservation. He partnered with multiple conservation organizations to increase their reach and education efforts. Kevin's passion about vernal pools and grassland birds is prevalent in his service and loves to share his fun bird facts. When asked why he serves, Kevin said:

“As humans continue to alter their surroundings land stewardship is as important as ever. Vernal pools have long been underrepresented in wetland inventories due to their ephemeral nature. Through my service I aim to raise awareness of vernal pool conservation through the vernal pool monitoring project, as well as establishing baseline data on vernal pools to detect changes related to land use and climate change. Additionally, by providing landowners with advice on managing their grassland for birds such as Bobolinks I hope to maintain healthy breeding populations of grassland bird species, which are declining rapidly throughout their range.”