

# VINS THROUGH THE DECADES

1972

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science is founded as an environmental education and research organization in Woodstock, VT.



1973

ELF (Environmental Learning for the Future) begins and transforms environmental education in Vermont. VINS also starts its 'Summer Discovery' Camps.



1976

The ELF project receives the Governor's Award for Distinguished Service to Children and Youth.

1981

VINS publishes the first birding guide for Vermont, *A GUIDE TO BIRDING IN VERMONT* by Walter G. Ellison and Nancy L. Martin.



1992

Governor Dean proclaims July 30, 1992 as Vermont Institute of Natural Science Day, stating that "VINS has reached 591,000 people since 1972 and has become an important force in the future of Vermont."



1990

VINS is accepted to the National Network of the Alliance for Environmental Education, the first from Vermont.

1986

The VINS Raptor Center is opened in Woodstock, VT, and the wild bird rehabilitation hospital is completed.



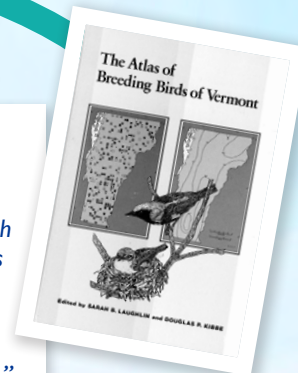
1986

VINS publishes *HANDS-ON NATURE* to provide information and activities to assist educators and parents in exploring the local environment with children.



1984

*THE ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS IN VERMONT*, edited by VINS co-founder Sarah Laughlin with Douglas Kibbe, is published. It was celebrated as "a landmark in American Ornithology."



2003

Ground Breaking at the new location in Quechee, Vermont led by Elizabeth Daley, wife of Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords.



2005

Raptor Exhibits open in Quechee with 22 birds of prey and the design wins Award of Excellence from the American Institute of Architects.



2010

VINS launches its In School Program bringing place-based STEM and environmental education to area schools.



2013

VINS assumes ownership of the Old Pepper Place in Washington, Vermont, a generous gift from Ronni Solbert and Jean Merrill.

2019

The VINS Forest Canopy Walk opens in October, giving visitors a birds-eye view of spectacular foliage.



2021/22

VINS Welcomes a record 69,811 Visitors to the Nature Center. In June, VINS opens a walk-in songbird aviary. VINS celebrates its 50 Year Anniversary.