

BIRD CONSERVATION

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FOREST BIRDS OF CONNECTICUT AND RHODE ISLAND



Forest openings like this provided habitat for a distinct group of bird species often referred to as forest gap specialists.

The Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island, the chronicle of the eight-year long forest bird survey of southern New England carried out by BCR, is now being written. To date, the h-

roduction and much of the Methods sections have been completed.

Further progress has involved an interplay between writing and data analysis. In some instances, still additional

data have needed to be gathered in order to move forward. During this winter, for example, we have been identifying global positioning coordinates for several study sites in

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FOREST BIRDS— CONTINUED

“For each individual bird encountered during surveys, we recorded a series of habitat measurements that relate to that particular bird.”



This juvenile Baltimore Oriole was a resident of the type of forest gaps illustrated on the previous page.

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Rhode Island where we had not yet gathered such information.

We also have been working to finalize input of habitat data gathered concurrently to making bird observations. For each individual bird encountered during surveys, we recorded a series of habitat measurements that relate to that particular bird. Because of the enormous volume

of data collected, doing so has been a slow and painstaking process.

When habitat data for all individuals encountered is completely entered, then analyses of species' winter and summer habitat relationships can be conducted. Such analyses are a key component for the preparation of species accounts.

Although population estimates for species have been computed, we

must also turn these estimates into maps that illustrate population densities across the entire region. We hope to be producing these maps this year.

BCR FIELD STATION



This Brown Thrasher was a summer breeder of the field station.

The new field station of BCR will not begin full operation until renovations on the property are complete. However, even by next spring we hope to begin initial studies on the birds of the station's farmland.

There are several projects that hold promise for future studies. The first is to investigate how birds may contribute to pest control in organically farmed crops. This will be part of an integrated pest management strategy.

A second area of study involves birds that inhabit managed hayfields. Even during our first summer at the station, we practiced late mowing in order to observe its effects on occupancy of the site by hayfield-associated species.

We also are interested in examining the breeding bird community of shrubby field borders. Because of the extensive agricultural land present throughout the vicinity of the station, birds of this border in-

clude species that are otherwise infrequent in southern New England, like the Brown Thrasher above.

One last endeavor we are investigating is to establish a banding station to monitor especially the passage of migrant birds associated with agricultural lands. Even this year, we detected the presence of significant numbers of Horned Larks making use of our and surrounding hayfields.

"...even by next spring we hope to begin initial studies on the birds of the station's farmland."

FIELD TRIPS

“Our fall outing for board members and friends headed to the Connecticut coastline.”



This intrepid group participated in the fall outing of BCR to coastal Connecticut.

Our fall outing for board members and friends headed to the Connecticut coastline. We began in Old Lyme, where we visited the landward edge of Griswold Point. We then stopped at a few other Old Lyme locations before heading out to Old Saybrook for a look at the Ragged Rock Creek area.

In falls of years past, these locations have produced a wealth of nota-

ble bird species, including Black Tern, Black-headed and Little Gulls, King Rail and Least Bittern. In this instance, we were thwarted at every turn by washed out access points and an exceptionally high tide. Aside from views of several very distant shorebirds, our species list for the day was so dismal that even species like Starling were welcome additions.

Of course, as is always

the case with these trips, despite our bird sightings qualifying for worst trip ever status, our congenial group still managed to have a most pleasant day.

ARTS & ACADEMIC PUBLISHING ACCEPTING MANUSCRIPTS



This image of the Angeles National Forest in California is used in a video production illustrating the ecology of the Chaparral biome.

Our partner in advancing bird conservation, the new publishing venture *Arts and Academic Publishing*, is now operational and can be visited at artsandacademic.net. At present, it is offering a series of 43 video programs in environmental science. These programs cover the entire national curriculum for advanced placement environmental science, although they also cover

many of the topics included in college-level environmental science courses.

Arts and Academic is serving as the host for BCR's scholarly online journal *Bird Conservation Contributions*. Authors of scientific papers may contribute them to this journal via the *Arts and Academic* web site.

Authors of academic and literary works are also

advised that *Arts and Academic* is now accepting manuscripts for editorial review. Accepted manuscripts will appear as e-books on the web site. Instructions to authors may be found at the web site.

“Arts and Academic is now accepting manuscripts for editorial review.”

The Newsletter of
Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

90 Liberty Highway
Putnam, CT 06260

Web: [www.
birdconservationresearch.org](http://www.birdconservationresearch.org)

E-mail: [mail@
birdconservationresearch.org](mailto:mail@birdconservationresearch.org)

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I'm telling you, its time to renew your membership....

MEMBERSHIP

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Membership applications and contribution options are also available at www.birdconservation-research.org