

BIRD CONSERVATION

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INTRODUCING ARTS AND ACADEMIC PUBLISHING



The forest edge specialist the Eastern Phoebe will be one of the species featured in the upcoming *Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island*.

BCR's newest partner in the field of scientific publication and environmental education is *Arts and Academic Publish-*

ing— a publishing company that focuses especially on producing scholarly works and environmental education materi-

als. A portion of all of its sales are to be donated to BCR to further our conser-

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PUBLISHING PARTNER- CONTINUED

“Arts and Academic Publishing offers downloadable video programming on environmental topics...”



The White-throated Sparrow was a rare summer but common winter resident in the forests of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

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vation and environmental education missions.

Arts and Academic Publishing offers downloadable video programming on environmental topics that may be used as stand alone classroom presentations on specific topics or as part of an online environmental science video course. In association with its video programs, *Arts and Academic* also offers online tutoring services for students who need more customized instruction

into environmental issues.

Topics available fall under the general headings of 1) Earth Systems and Resources, 2) The Living World, 3) Populations, 4) Environmental Pollution, and 5) Land and Water Resources. Within each of these unit headings, specific topics such as Agriculture, Land Use Planning and Public Lands are available.

In addition to its role in distributing environmental education videos, a separate portion of the company is focusing on

developing a selection of e-books. These books include ones on all academic disciplines as well as substantive literary works. Scholars and writers are encouraged to submit manuscripts for editorial review. The e-books are scheduled to be available later this year.

Arts and Academic's web site will be premiering shortly and will be announced to BCR members via social media and direct e-mail.

FIELD TRIPS



The late winter aspect of the lower Connecticut River is one of open water and bare trees. In late winter, ducks pair and court and the first spring migrants begin to appear.

A trip to the lower Connecticut River highlighted the late winter season for BCR Board of Trustees members and their special guests. Despite the unusually cold and snowy winter we've had, we managed to find a weekend day with temperatures that were mild and winds that were light.

Late winter in southern New England is actually a busy time in the bird world. Ducks begin their courting and pairing on the wintering grounds, so

a great deal of courtship activity is evident during this season. Moreover, although our calendars may still read winter, the biological calendar is already turning the page to spring— the first spring migrants begin to appear and even resident species begin the process of territory establishment and mate selection.

During our trip, spring migrants were already in evidence, with Red-winged Blackbirds and Tree Swallows making their first appearance over the wetlands of the

lower river. Ospreys also were already sitting on the nest platforms that dot the marshes of the river.

Other species in evidence during this trip were Bald Eagles, a single Snowy Owl perched in a distant river-edge tree. Duck species present included Common, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, Pintail, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck.

“Late winter in southern New England is actually a busy time in the bird world.”

SECONDARY SUCCESSION VIDEO AVAILABLE



The meadow stage of plant succession is one of the seral stages investigated in BCR's new video on secondary plant succession.

“Our latest video features an investigation of the process of secondary plant succession in southern New England.”

Video productions have been at the heart of our ongoing efforts to upgrade the quality of educational resources available for the national advanced placement environmental science curriculum.

Our latest video features an investigation of the process of secondary plant succession in southern New England. It begins with an exploration of a recently established meadow (image above) and explores how the meadow evolved

from one dominated by annual weeds to one with perennial herbs during its first few years of development. It then examines the evolution of the old field environment as woody plants increasingly invade the meadow, and it follows the development of the old field community into that of a young forest dominated by pioneer species. It then explores how the young forest diversifies and ages into a mature forest, and how this mature forest, when left undisturbed, can develop into an old growth

ecosystem.

With this video, our first generation of video productions is now complete. A second and third generation of videos featuring television quality productions is in the planning stage and will also focus on New England habitats.

The Newsletter of
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Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

Membership

- \$25 Regular member
- \$35 Family membership
- \$50 Sustaining member
- \$100 Contributor
- \$250 Patron
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1,000 Grand benefactor

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Two birds in the hand are worth.... Well, we're not sure. However, you membership is certainly worth it for all birds.

MEMBERSHIP

It is once again time to renew your annual membership in BCR. Members will be receiving a renewal form with this newsletter, but you may

now join or renew your membership by going to <http://www.gofundme.com/1nqlss>.

Membership applications and contribution options

are also available at www.birdconservation-research.org