

BIRD CONSERVATION

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RESEARCH STATION FOR BIRD CONSERVATION



This working farm is now the research station of BCR.

Summertime was moving time for BCR, and so all of our usual activities, including producing a July newsletter, were placed on hold while we

made the transition to our new home.

After considering several properties, we settled on a 10-acre tract in Pomfret,

CT. It is working farmland, and presently consists of hayfields, woodlots and livestock barns.

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RESEARCH STATION— CONTINUED

“At present, resident species on the property include Bobolinks, Brown Thrashers and other species characteristic of more open landscapes.”



This Yellow-throated Vireo was captured while it fed among blueberry bushes at the research station farm.

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We will convert some of the acreage to orchard and vegetable farming, but we plan to keep the bulk of the property in hay and timber production.

The property sits in a region that is still largely agricultural, and it thus provides us with an opportunity to begin a new focus on birds of New England agricultural land. We have in the past

studied birds of marshes and forests (this latter work is still in the analysis phase), so this new focus will expand the area of our expertise.

Much as our work on birds of marshes demonstrated, birds of agricultural land are often opportunistic species that are affected by tract size and regional landscape considerations. We hope to examine some of these same issues for farm birds in the coming years.

By next spring, we plan to establish a banding station to document the movement of birds through this agricultural landscape. Doing so will also permit us to distinguish resident from migratory species.

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BCR AND UCONN STUDY BIRDS OF FARMLAND



This hayfield on the College of Agriculture campus of the University of Connecticut is mowed several times during the growing season.

On agricultural land, wildlife have traditionally been viewed as one of the “crops” that are produced as a byproduct of other agricultural activities. Much of the science of wildlife management has indeed evolved in the shadow of production agriculture and, hence, wildlife management programs at institutions of higher learning are still typically housed at colleges of agriculture.

Since the beginning of the 2014 breeding season back in early March,

BCR has been working for the University of Connecticut on characterizing the breeding birds of lands belonging to its College of Agriculture. A small portion of one of these areas is slated for road construction, so understanding avian use of the area as a whole is essential to developing an approach to minimizing development impacts and maximizing wildlife value of the land.

Farming activities typically limit the number of bird species that can inhabit agricultural lands.

For example, haying, especially when done early in the breeding season, can disrupt nesting by species that otherwise might breed in an area. However, manipulation of mowing schedules as well as leaving areas along fences unmowed have proven to be effective at improving bird use of and nesting success in hayfields.

“Farming activities typically limit the number of bird species that can inhabit agricultural lands.”

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE VIDEOS

“A total of 43 episodes have finished the editing process and are to be made available through our partner...”



This image of dying spruce trees is used in a video episode that examines the effects of acid rain.

Video productions compatible with the national AP Environmental Science curriculum are now complete. A total of 43 episodes have finished the editing process and are to be made available through our partner, *Arts and Academic Publishing*.

The episodes are divided

among five major areas of inquiry— Earth Systems and Resources, The Living World, Land and Water Resources, Environmental Pollution and Populations. Each is approximately 30 minutes in length.

Episodes consider specific aspects of environmental science, with the title of each reflecting this

aspect. Episode titles include Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated Pest Management, Forestry, Desertification and Public Lands.

ARTS & ACADEMIC PUBLISHING



This image of gulls, cormorants and sea lions is from one of the episodes of the new AP Environmental Science video series.

Our partner in the field of scientific publication and environmental education is *Arts and Academic Publishing*—a new entity in the field of publishing.

Arts and Academic's web site is nearly ready to debut, and will be found at www.artsandacademic.net. Once it goes live, BCR will receive a donation from all sales made.

Arts and Academic is initially focusing on provid-

ing video programming that is compatible with the national AP Environmental Science curriculum. Each video episode covers a specific topic within that curriculum.

Eventually, *Arts and Academic* will expand its video library to include other high demand academic subjects like AP Biology, Principles of Ecology, Ornithology and other subjects. In all instances, video programming makes use of pre-

sent thinking in learning theory in the construction of its episodes.

A separate division of Arts and Academic will also offer e-books on all academic topics as well as on topics within the arts. These will include fictional works. A call for manuscripts is to be made shortly.

“Arts and Academic is initially focusing on providing video programming ...”

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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Town _____

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Make sure your membership is up to date. We're watching.

MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your annual membership in BCR. Members will be receiving a renewal form with this newsletter, but you may now join or re-

new your membership by going to <http://www.gofundme.com/1nqlss>.

www.birdconservation-research.org

Membership applications and contribution options are also available at