

**Restoration ecology**  
**a synthetic approach to**  
**ecological research**

edited by

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# Contents

	<i>List of contributors</i>	page vii
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<b>I</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	1
1	Restoration ecology: ecological restoration as a technique for basic research <i>W. R. Jordan III</i> <i>M. E. Gilpin, J. D. Aber</i>	3
2	Restoration: an acid test for ecology <i>A. D. Bradshaw</i>	23
□	Restoration is the ultimate test of ecological theory <i>J. J. Ewel</i>	31
3	The heuristic value of ecological restoration <i>J. L. Harper</i>	35
4	The self-effacing art: restoration as imitation of nature <i>F. Turner</i>	47
<b>II</b>	<b>Assembling whole systems in the field</b>	51
5	The reclamation of derelict land and the ecology of ecosystems <i>A. D. Bradshaw</i>	53
6	Prairies <i>V. M. Kline, E. A Howell</i>	75
□	Restoration practice raises questions <i>J. Powers</i>	85
7	Forests <i>W. C. Ashby</i>	89
8	Lakes <i>E. B. Welch, G. D. Cooke</i>	109
<b>III</b>	<b>Synthetic ecology</b>	131
9	Marine microcosms <i>W. H. Adey</i>	133
10	Experimental community assembly: competition, community structure and the order of species introductions <i>M. E. Gilpin</i>	151
<b>IV</b>	<b>Partial or piecewise restoration in the field</b>	163
11	Reintroduction as a method of studying bird behavior and ecology <i>E. S. Morton</i>	165
12	Mechanisms of colonization and species persistence in plant communities <i>K. L. Gross</i>	173
13	Restoration ecology: a tool to study population interactions? <i>M. L. Rosenzweig</i>	189

14	Mycorrhizae and succession	<i>R. M. Miller</i>	205
15	Disturbed lands and ecological theory: an essay about a mutualistic association	<i>J. A. MacMahon</i>	221
<b>V</b>	<b>Restored systems as opportunities for basic research</b>		239
16	Restored forests and the identification of critical factors in species–site interactions	<i>J. D. Aber</i>	241
□	The Hubbard Brook sandbox experiment	<i>F. H. Bormann, W. B. Bowden, R. S. Pierce, S. P. Hamburg, G. K. Voigt, R. C. Ingersoll, G. E. Likens</i>	251
17	Community dynamics on an artificial prairie	<i>G. Cottam</i>	257
18	Evolutionary lessons from degraded ecosystems	<i>T. McNeilly</i>	271
<b>VI</b>	<b>Doing restoration ecology</b>		287
19	Problems of scaling in restoration ecology: a practical application	<i>T. F. H. Allen, T. W. Hoekstra</i>	289
20	Minimum viable populations: a restoration ecology perspective	<i>M. E. Gilpin</i>	301
21	Disturbed ecosystems as opportunities for research in restoration ecology	<i>J. Cairns, Jr</i>	307
22	Reflections on “mechanistic” experiments in ecological restoration	<i>P. Werner</i>	321
23	Reflections on goals and on the relationship between theory and practice	<i>J. Diamond</i>	329
	<i>Index</i>		337

# I

# Introduction

In the planting of the seeds of most trees, the best gardeners do no more than follow nature, though they may not know it... So, when we experiment in planting forests, we find ourselves at last doing as Nature does. Would it not be well to consult with Nature in the outset? for she is the most extensive and experienced planter of us all...

Henry David Thoreau, *On the Succession of Forest Trees*