

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Presents



The Personality of the Bird

With Robert Fergus, Ph.D.



October 12, 2011

7pm



Early 20th Century naturalists were quick to describe birds in human terms, including characteristics such as shyness and mischievousness that we would consider aspects of personality. Was this merely anthropomorphism, the misplaced attribution of human characteristics to birds or animals, or do birds actually have personality? While we should rightfully avoid anthropomorphism, the latest research suggests that birds and other animals do indeed have personality--including many of the same characteristics shared by people. By reviewing the findings of the latest research, and showing how you can explore bird personality on your own, Dr. Fergus opens a door into this exciting inner life of birds.

Dr. Rob Fergus studied bird conservation at the University of Texas, where he received his PhD in 2008. He was the founding director of the Hornsby Bend (Texas) Bird Observatory and was the first executive director of the Travis Audubon Society in Austin, Texas. He worked for the National Audubon Society for nearly 5 years as their senior scientist for Urban Bird Conservation. Dr. Fergus is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at Rowan University, where he teaches cultural geography and environmental science. He also teaches urban ecology and biodiversity courses at Rosemont College in Philadelphia, and provides bird pest control consulting for BirdBGone, Inc. Rob recently moved from Bucks County, PA to a geothermal home in the wilds of Hunterdon County, NJ where he enjoys birding and exploring nature with his kids.

All meetings are free and open to the public!
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