

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Presents

Little Nest on the Prairie: America's Vanishing Grasslands and the Birds That Call Them Home

With Shaibel Mitra, PhD
June 12, 2013 at 7pm



Tallgrass prairies once covered 140 millions acres across the United States. Today, all that remains is between 1 and 4% . Short and mixed grass prairies are also declining. As grasslands are our fastest declining habitats, so are the birds utilize them. Of the 48 species of birds breeding in grasslands, approximately 50% of them are in trouble. Tonight we will explore these vanishing ecosystems and their inhabitants.

Shai Mitra has studied birds in the northeastern United States and around the world for more than thirty years. He received a BA in Biology from Cornell University in 1989 and a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Chicago in 1996. From 1996-2000 he operated a major bird-banding station at the Fire Island Lighthouse, on the South Shore of Long Island. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the College of Staten Island, with research interests in the areas of avian ecology, evolution, and conservation. Shai is Editor of *The Kingbird*, the quarterly publication of the New York State Ornithological Association; co-compiler of bird records for the New York City and Long Island region; Chair of the Rhode Island Avian Records Committee; and co-compiler of three Christmas Bird Counts on Long Island and Rhode Island.

All meetings are free and open to the public!
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