

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Presents



New York State's Adirondack Park is a large, intact breeding ground for numerous migratory bird species, several of which are declining throughout their range. A unique component of the Adirondack avifauna is the birds inhabiting the boreal peatlands of the park. Climate change is now widely recognized as the pre-eminent threat to biodiversity in the 21st Century. At the southern range extent for this ecosystem type and many of its avian inhabitants, the park is a valuable location from which to monitor changes in bird populations from a warming climate. Studies suggest that bird responses to climate change may be mediated by urbanization, highlights the importance of metapopulation dynamics, and raises important implications for potential conservation strategies in these habitats.

About the speaker: As Science Coordinator for the Adirondack Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Michale serves a leading role in the ecological research conducted in the Adirondacks. Her research interests lie primarily at the intersection between land use management and ecological integrity, with a number of projects ranging from the impacts of low density, exurban development on wildlife to the potential changes to Adirondack lowland boreal communities resulting from climate change. Michale joined WCS in 2003 after completing a Ph.D. at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry where she explored the effects of land use management on bird and small mammal communities in the Adirondack Park. She has also worked on the potential impacts of ski area development on Bicknell's thrush, a Neotropical migrant of high conservation priority in the east, and on a project to understand the rapidly expanding moose population in the Adirondacks and its relatedness to nearby populations in neighboring states and provinces. In addition to her exurban development work, Michale is currently working to understand the status and distribution of a suite of lowland boreal birds in the Adirondack Park and the potential impacts of climate change on these vulnerable species. Michale serves on the advisory board of the Shingle Shanty Preserve and Research Station, the Technical Advisory Committee for the Adirondack Park Agency, the Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Committee for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Forest and Land Management Task Force of the Adirondack Climate Action Plan, the Avian Taxonomic Working Group of the Adirondack All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, and the Paul Smiths College Fisheries and Wildlife Science Advisory Board.

All meetings are free and open to the public!
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