

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Presents



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Make Room for Wildlife: Effects of Exurban Development on Wildlife and Lessons from the Adirondacks

With Michale Glennon, Ph.D
November 12, 2014
7pm



Low density (exurban) residential development is the fastest growing land use in the United States, and is particularly prevalent in areas of high amenity value surrounding protected areas, including the private lands of the Adirondack Park. Consisting of homes located on large lots of 5 – 40 acres, it is a particularly consumptive development pattern, and, although not always visually obtrusive, it has major and irreversible impacts on wildlife. Specialized species that are intolerant of humans are displaced by generalist species; human-wildlife conflict may increase due to intrusion by settlement into prime wildlife habitat; and wide-ranging species suffer the incremental loss of habitat caused by expanded road and driveway networks and the development itself. Research in the Adirondacks has demonstrated that exurban development is a quickly-growing development pattern, but until recently the precise ecological impacts in this ecosystem were poorly understood. Join us tonight as we learn about direct impacts to songbirds and other wildlife from exurban development.

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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