

AU fall environmental seminar speaker will be all about the birds

10/11/12

Chris Wood, eBird and neotropical birds project leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will present “eBird: Where Birding, Science and Conservation Meet” as part of Alfred University’s Environmental Studies Seminar Series.

The lecture will take place on Friday, Oct. 19, beginning at 12:20 p.m. in Roon Lecture Hall (Room 247) of Alfred University’s Science Center. The program is open to the public free of charge.

Wood, who began birding at the age of 5, is active in the field of ornithology; his primary interests include bird distribution, identification, vocalizations, and conservation. When not in the lab, he leads birding tours for WINGS to the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America.

He also is an editor of the BIRDING photo quiz, the Colorado and Wyoming region of “North American Birds,” and the online photo quiz for the American Birding Association. He has written and consulted on books and other literature on North American birds, and is currently the project leader for eBird.

eBird brings together technology and humans in order to create one of the most comprehensive bird information databases available. Recreational and professional birdwatchers are able to document when, where, and how they went birding; they then are offered a checklist to mark down which species they observed or heard. The result is a thorough electronic compilation showing the density of each species in specific areas, allowing scientists, educators, and land managers to access the observations. The information is archived, and is then available to anyone through the eBird website.

The Environmental Studies Seminar Series at Alfred University is held every Friday during the fall semester when the University is in session. Sponsored by the Division of Environmental Studies within Alfred University’s School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the series brings a range of speakers to the campus, including scientists, activists, and policy-makers, with the mission to better understand our environment and what we can do better to sustain our world.