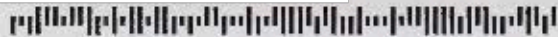


Ms. Pamela Grow

August 14, 2015



Dear Ms. Grow,

The enclosed ***A Year With Birds*** calendar is yours to keep and enjoy. It's our way of saying a heartfelt *Thank You!* for being a valued supporter of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

I hope you'll make the most of your new calendar to discover more about how the Cornell Lab, backed by caring people like you, is not merely sustaining—but advancing—its critical mission to research, conserve, and celebrate birds as earth's most beautiful and powerful messengers of nature.

As you'll see, ***A Year With Birds*** is filled with striking, full-color photographs of a variety of birds that inspire us with their beauty, songs, and engaging behavior all year long.

April, for example, features the Tree Swallow, known for the acrobatic twists and turns it makes while chasing flying insects (and even feathers for its nest). Data collected through the Lab's citizen-science project, NestWatch, show that Tree Swallows are nesting nine days earlier than they did only three decades ago—the mere blink of an eye in evolutionary time, and almost certainly a consequence of climate change.

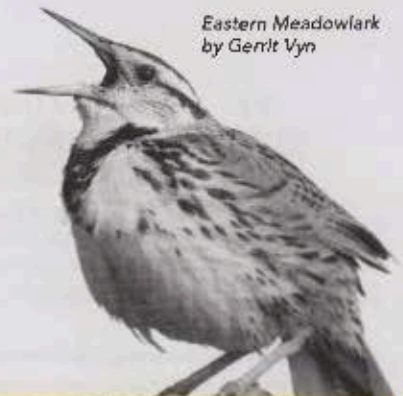
Turn to July to spy an Anna's Hummingbird, identified by its rose-pink throat and crown. This diminutive flyer, no bigger than a ping pong ball and no heavier than a nickel, is inspiring city youth to learn more about the joys of birds and bird watching through the Lab's Celebrate Urban Birds project.

Ms. Grow, these are the sorts of eye-opening discoveries—about birds and about the natural world—you make possible through your generous support of the Cornell Lab.

That's why I encourage you to use the Calendar Confirmation Reply to make a generous gift of \$45, \$65, even \$80 or more to the Lab today. We have so much important work ahead of us.

Take the Cornell Lab's new Land Trust Initiative, for instance. It's aimed at helping land trusts across the country preserve and manage lands critical to birds. To that end, the Lab is developing an outreach campaign that will involve land trusts in timely data collection about bird populations and distribution. Our outreach effort will include onsite visits, as well as webinars and a special information portal on the Lab's website.

(over, please)



Eastern Meadowlark
by Gerrit Vyn

38044

CALENDAR CONFIRMATION REPLY

YES! I received my beautiful ***A Year with Birds*** calendar. And, yes, I will gladly support the Cornell Lab's innovative efforts to make new

THREE EASY WAYS TO GIVE

The Lab also will develop with land trusts what we're calling "bird conservation cooperatives" to focus actions on those birds in immediate need of protection and enhanced conservation. Today, some 250 species of birds in North America are either endangered or threatened.

In addition to our work with land trusts, the Cornell Lab is committed to building eBird—our pioneering citizen-science initiative—into an ever-more powerful source of data about birds that scientists, conservationists, and our international partners can use to gain the knowledge they need to make more informed, on-the-ground conservation decisions.

eBird is igniting a big-data revolution in conservation. One quick example of its power involves Bird Returns, the Lab's joint project with The Nature Conservancy of California. Data gathered via eBird has revealed that more than 220,000 birds of 57 species used temporary "pop-up wetlands" during their migrations along the Pacific Flyway—thereby underscoring the need for such wet spots, created by paying farmers to flood their fields.

Also, earlier this year eBird data enabled the Cornell Lab to analyze distributions of birds that live on lands overseen by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Using those data, Lab scientists were able to model where each of the 308 species occurred every week of the year, thereby pinpointing key habitat patches and documenting the critical importance of public lands to bird conservation.

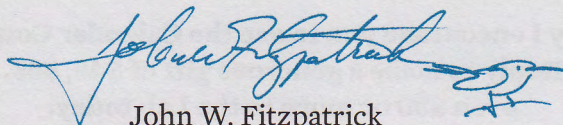
Finally, and perhaps most remarkably, eBird data are being used by researchers to make new discoveries about one of nature's greatest mysteries: how millions of tiny songbirds like the Magnolia Warbler, the featured bird for August in our new **A Year With Birds** calendar, are able to migrate thousands of miles, between North and South America, every year.

eBird data show that the high-flying featherweights are using clockwise, elliptical routes—not straight ones—to surf strong breezes in the spring as they migrate north and to avoid pronounced headwinds in autumn when heading south again, thereby conserving their energy stores during these long trips.

I hope you enjoy as much as I do that discovery is the goal of every project here at the Cornell Lab, and each new discovery about birds tells us more about the world we call home. Discovery has, in fact, been the Lab's rallying cry since 1915—and it will remain so with the help of your ongoing and vitally needed financial support.

I thank you again for your past support of the Lab, and look forward to your prompt and generous reply.

Sincerely,



John W. Fitzpatrick
Executive Director

P.S. Be advised that we printed only a limited number of our 2016 calendar, **A Year With Birds**. It would help if you could let me know that yours arrived, by returning the Calendar Confirmation Reply. If you can, please include a generous gift to make possible new Cornell Lab discoveries about birds and the natural world around us. Thank you so much.

Please note: The photographer for the June albatross image is Hob Osterlund.

A16HLD

Please charge my credit card:

Card # _____

SAPSUCKER WOODS SOCIETY

Please contact me to discuss estate planning opportunities that can benefit me and the Cornell Lab.

Phone # _____

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

2016 CALENDAR

A YEAR WITH BIRDS





JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

2016 CALENDAR

A YEAR WITH BIRDS





INSIDE:
*A Year
With Birds*

2016 AUGUST

Conservation Science
Neotropical migrants are the ultimate endurance athletes! Like bright and colorful Magnolia Warblers, they travel the vast distances of a jumbo jet. The Cornell Lab's Conservation Science team takes a holistic approach to bird conservation, combining science from North to South America to achieve full life-cycle conservation.

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birds.cornell.edu
Magnolia Warbler photos by Gerrit Aynsbeek and Casey Hayes (this page)



Your 2016 Calendar