

## Presentation Details

### ***Heads up! Social vigilance behaviour in American crows***

*Alex Popescu, Kiyoko M. Gotanda. Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada*

*Urbanized species such as the American crow can adapt to exploit anthropogenic resources and maximize their benefits and fitness in urban areas, leading to an increase in abundance in cities. While individual-level behavioural adaptations are an active area of research, adaptations of social behaviours and their contribution to the success of urbanised species are underexplored. Last summer, we performed observational trials in green and commercial areas selected from a Brock community science initiative (<https://crowkemon.weebly.com/>) and found that American crows have adapted social vigilance behaviour in urban settings. We found that the presence of a sentinel had little impact on the behaviour of foragers, but that the type of environment in which they forage had a significant effect on the duration of behaviours performed by foragers. The proportion of time allocated to each behaviour or the pecking rate of foragers were not significantly affected by either the environment or the presence of a sentinel. Our results suggest that their reliance on the sentinel differs, and reflects the individual's perception of the environment in which it forages.*