**A Case of the Zoomies? Unraveling the Intricacies of Dawn Swarming Behaviour in Temperate Bats**

Michela M.C. Contursi1, Caleb C. Ryan1, Sepidar Golestaneh1, and Hugh G. Broders1

1*Department of Biology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON, N2M 2L3*

Similarly to many other bat species, little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) live in complex and highly social maternity groups where bats form long-term social bonds with each other. Bats use visual and behavioural cues to communicate and maintain cohesion of their maternity groups over time. Individuals gather around roost sites before dawn and conduct unique behavioural displays. Collectively known as “dawn swarming”, this phenomenon is thought to be investigative in nature. Some of these behavioural displays include circling around a roost, and swooping up at the entrance, all before entering the roost itself or visiting an entirely different site. Using thermal video recordings and a network of passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagged bats, we observed the dawn swarming behaviour of a *M. lucifugus* maternity group roosting in bat boxes in Pinery Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. In 2023, we found activity peaked 30–75 minutes before sunrise. Activity formed a clustered, wave-like pattern, where individuals interacted with roost sites at variable, but discrete, time intervals. With this study, we aim to quantitatively characterize the behaviours conducted during dawn swarming to better understand bat social dynamics, and ultimately, aspects of how social animals communicate.