**The timing of the dawn chorus in a temperate bird community is related to both moonlight and meteorological conditions**

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Male songbirds of many species sing at high rates before sunrise resulting in a pronounced dawn chorus. The time that males begin to sing varies both within and among species. The extrinsic factors that may influence the timing of the dawn chorus for North American bird species have received little attention. In this study, we consider relationships between the start time of the dawn chorus and ambient temperature, precipitation, cloud cover, lunar phase, and Julian date. We used automated recorders to record the dawn chorus at twelve locations near Echo Bay, ON. We focused on six common bird species in this northern temperate agricultural community. There was a clear temporal order in dawn chorus start time among species; Alder Flycatchers begin singing earliest in this group of birds, followed by Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, American Robins, Eastern Phoebes, and Black-capped Chickadees. Our results indicate that a different suite of environmental factors influenced the chorus start times of different species and to different degrees. In general, we found that males began singing earlier with full or third quarter moon (when moonlight is present at dawn) and with increasing temperature at nautical twilight. Males began singing later with presence of cloud cover and precipitation. Males started to sing later as the season progressed or showed a mid-season peak of early singing. This investigation reveals that extrinsic abiotic factors have a significant effect on the timing of the dawn in north temperate birds.