**A longitudinal examination of hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) singing behaviour**

**MacLeod, J.W.**, **Roach, S.P.**, **Phillmore, L.S.**, Dalhousie University

Passerine songbirds can be divided into closed learners, which acquire their song repertoires during a critical period early in life and don’t add to that repertoire thereafter, and open learners, which can continue to learn new songs after that early period (Beecher & Brenowitz, 2005). The default assumption has been that most songbirds are closed learners, yet actual evidence of this exists for relatively few species. Indeed, recent research suggesting that some birds traditionally thought to be closed learners may in fact have open learning abilities (e.g., Great Tit; McGregor & Krebs, 1989) highlights the need for this issue to be examined in additional species. The current study looked for between-season song repertoire changes in adult male hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) individuals. Eighteen males (13 colour-banded) were recorded spontaneously singing on territory during consecutive breeding seasons, and their singing bouts were analyzed to generate song type repertoires. No season-to-season changes were detected in any of the individuals’ song repertoires. The only changes detected related to song type variants, which are characterized by how they combine the introductory and post-introductory portions of different song types, as well as their extremely rare occurrence. These variants differed between season with respect to their structure and frequency. The use of colour banding in this study also generated information regarding breeding site fidelity, which was 50%, and partially addressed the utility of song type repertoire composition for accurately identifying individual males by song.