Who's There?: Urban or Rural Living Among Barred Owls (*Strix varia*)

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### Goal & Hypothesis
- To determine the preference of owls towards urban or rural sites
- Owls will prefer less-developed forested sites over more-developed urban sites

### Conservation Concern
- Formerly forested lands have been converted to agriculture and much has been urbanized often displacing wildlife.
- Owls historically have inhabited large forest tracts & large roosting trees.

### Methods
- **Acoustics**
  - Merlin app
- **GIS:** 800m buffer
- **Landcover extraction**

### Findings
- Aural (n=3) and visual (n=1) detections of barred owls occurred only at the rural sites with mixed hardwood forest and proximity to wetlands.
- Owls were detected more often during near full lunar phase with conditions of limited wind.
- Forested wetlands are considered more favorable for nesting, hunting, and mating.

→ Conservation and management of forests adjacent to wetlands should be a priority to ensure persistence of barred owl populations in Clinton County, NY.

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