

# Starlings in the city: how a common bird copes with urbanization

**Sarah Guindre-Parker , Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Biology  
Department of Ecology, Evolution, and  
Organismal Biology



**September 13, 2022, 11:30am-1:30pm**  
**KSU Center, Room 464**

European starlings are one of the most common species of birds across the world, and are found in a wide-range of habitat types with different land-use. My team and I study these common starlings to better understand how different populations of animals cope with the unique stressors they face along an urban-to-rural gradient. For example, urban environments may be warmer, may have introduced predators, or may present more frequent disturbances to wild animals. I will share my lab's latest findings on the differences we observe between city birds and country birds. I hope this work can teach us about how resilient birds are to environmental change and urbanization, as well as help us better manage species that are more sensitive to anthropogenic disturbance.

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Dr. Guindre-Parker joined the College of Science and Mathematics as an assistant professor of biology in 2019. She describes herself as a behavioral ecologist interested in how animals cope with unpredictable environmental conditions. Her research integrates across evolution, behavioral ecology and endocrinology to understand how birds are adapted to survive and reproduce in changing habitats. She is particularly interested in what strategies animals use to succeed in urban environments. She is a proud Canadian from British Columbia with a BSc from Simon Fraser University, a MSc from the University of Windsor and a PhD from Columbia University. Prior to joining Kennesaw State University's Department of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology, she was a postdoc at the Universities of Guelph and Michigan. When not in the lab or in the field, she enjoys cooking, practicing yoga, and spending time with her dog Hank.