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Research Interests

My research interests fall broadly into the areas of animal learning and cognition. I am particularly interested in understanding how animals solve ecologically relevant problems they encounter in the wild. In my lab, we use the Indian mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*), a highly invasive, highly social, songbird, to explore a variety of questions on animal learning and cognition. Projects include understanding how Indian mynahs recognize danger and how they learn to recognize novel threats. We are also interested in whether mynahs learn to avoid dangerous places and whether they socially transmit this information to conspecifics. Finally, we are exploring the willingness on mynahs to explore novel places and their ability to learn quickly about novel food sources. Findings provide important information into the cognitive and ecological attributes of a highly invasive avian species. As such, they allow us to test theoretical models of animal cognition, but also to inform the development of wildlife management strategies for avian pests.



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Publications

1. **Griffin, A. S.**, (2008) Social learning in Indian mynahs, *Acridotheres tristis*: The role of distress calls, *Animal Behaviour*, 75 79-89
2. **Griffin, A. S.**, (2008) Socially acquired predator avoidance: Is it just classical conditioning?, *Brain Research Bulletin*, 76 264-271
3. **Griffin, A. S.**, Savani, R. S., Hausmanis, K., & Lefebvre, L. (2005). Mixed species aggregations in birds: zenaida doves (*Zenaida auritus*) respond to the alarm calls of carib grackles (*Quiscalus lugubris*). *Animal Behaviour*, 70, 507-515.
4. **Griffin, A. S.**, & Galef, B. G., Jr (2005). Social learning about predators: does timing matter? *Animal Behaviour*, 69, 669-678.
5. **Griffin, A. S.** (2004). Social learning about predators: a review and prospectus. *Learning and Behavior*, 32. 131-140.
6. **Griffin, A. S.** (2003). Training tammar wallabies (*Macropus eugenii*) to respond to predators: A review linking experimental Psychology to Conservation. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology*, 16, 111-129.
7. **Griffin, A. S.**, & Evans, C. S. (2003a). Social learning of antipredator behaviour in a marsupial. *Animal Behaviour*, 66, 485-492.
8. **Griffin, A. S.**, & Evans C. S. (2003b). The role of differential reinforcement in predator avoidance learning. *Behavioural Processes*, 61, 87-94.
9. **Griffin, A. S.**, Evans C. S., & Blumstein, D. T. (2002). Selective learning in a marsupial. *Ethology*, 108, 1103-1114.
10. Blumstein, D. T., Mari, M., Daniel, J. C., Ardron, J. C. **Griffin, A. S.**, & Evans, C. S. (2002). Olfactory predator recognition: wallabies may have to learn to be wary. *Animal Conservation*, 5, 87-93.
11. **Griffin, A. S.**, Evans C.S., & Blumstein, D. T. (2001). Learning specificity in acquired predator recognition. *Animal Behaviour*, 62, 577-589.
12. Blumstein, D. T., Daniel, J. C., **Griffin, A. S.**, & Evans, C. S. (2000). Insular tammar wallabies (*Macropus eugenii*) respond to visual but not acoustic cues from predators. *Behavioral Ecology*, 11, 528-535.
13. **Griffin, A. S.**, Blumstein, D. T. & Evans C. S. (2000). Training captive-bred or translocated animals about predators. *Conservation Biology*, 14, 1317-1326.