

## Discussion Questions for *Darwin Comes to Town*

Lori Moilanen and Judith White

1. What were your overall impressions of this book in terms of readability and presentation of scientific concepts?
2. How do humans restrict the movement of animals? What are possible consequences? Can you think of any local examples?
3. What is the *satoyama* concept discussed by the author? Do you see any parallels in our environment on the Olympic Peninsula?
4. Has reading this book changed your perception of big city urban environments in any way? Of our local environment?
5. What is the author's position on citizen science? Do you agree or disagree?
6. The author has been portrayed on occasion as an apologist for unrestrained development. Based on the content of this book, do you agree or disagree with this portrayal?
7. DCTT got me thinking of how biased I am in viewing "Nature". Things birds evolve to do in the pristine woods are "noble" but evolving to adapt to urban environments is often viewed with disdain. Think of examples from the book. Why do we devalue Nature's evolutionary response to human presence?
8. A recent article in the New York Times by Laura M. Hobson entitled "Crows trained to pick up garbage at French Park" described how crows are trained to pick up cigarette butts and place them in a box to get a food reward, as a show for visitors at a large national amusement park entrance, in an effort to increase visitors' care with such items. What are the pros and cons? Are the crows actually training us?
9. Are you aware of other books or articles on urban/suburban evolution? Are there any that you would recommend to the group for additional reading on the topic?