

The meaning behind bird chirping

By Taylor O.

Background knowledge

We all know the chirping you hear from birds when you wake up, but have you ever stopped to wonder what it means? Are they talking? Fighting? Just doing it for fun? Well, I'm here to tell you what I have learned about this mysterious chirping.

From my research, I learned that birds chirp to indicate danger, warning, and communication. The birds you hear in the morning are usually males.

(<https://earthsky.org/earth/why-do-birds-sing> 2019) They sing to announce that they are alive, alert, and ready to defend their territory. Birds sing in the morning because their songs are more consistent and clear than at any other time of day, primarily due to lack of wind. (<https://www.wbu.com/birds-sing-early-morning/> 2020) When there is no wind it allows birds' songs to travel farther.

Observations

From May 22, 2020, to May 24, 2020, I conducted my observations at around 8:20 every morning. Every day my observations were made at Eagle Lake. I was surrounded by tons of water, trees, and lots of plants and flowers.

Day 1- I heard some chickadees, a few blue jays, and some herons, although it was a bit windy on this day so I didn't hear as many birds as I did on other mornings. The herons made long ratchet sounding calls, I noticed when the heron flew by many of the other birds quieted down, I was surprised by this. I think that they knew the heron was larger and more powerful than they were, and that is why they quieted down when the heron would make its loud calls. (Figure 1)

Day 2- I heard a variety of chirps, some quick high pitched chirps from small birds like chickadees, and some deeper and longer chirps from birds like crows. I also noticed that some of the birds would stand on tree branches and flap their wings and chirp loudly, I am guessing that they were protecting their territory. (Figure 2)

Day 3- I heard lots of different sounds and songs coming from a variety of birds. I also noticed some birds guarding their territory. I noticed a hole in the tree that one bird kept going into and then was chirping loudly to show that it was his territory, and for the other birds to stay away. (Figure 3)

Putting the pieces together

Overall my research and my observations resulted in a very strong claim about the reasons behind bird chirping. I was able to identify that a huge part of why birds chirp is so that they can protect their territory. In my observations, I saw this happening twice. I am now wondering if birds chirp the same amount all year round? In the winter or summer do they chirp more? Are there special months when they make the most noise? I would love to investigate further into this.



<p>Figure 1 (heron)</p>	<p>Figure 2 (bird On a tree branch Chirping and flapping its Wings...protecting Its territory)</p>	<p>Figure 3 (hole in the tree)</p>
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Photo of the Heron is from- <https://tx.audubon.org/great-blue-heron-0>