







Indexical Bird Calls and Monkey Yelps

Birds' (mostly) digital system



Calls

Short note sequences associated with discrete functions

Flight, alarm, nesting, enjoyment, flocking, aggression, territorial control, feeding

Bird: wenchiawang/iStock/Thinkstock; Music Notes: wenchiawang/iStock/Thinkstock



Songs

Long, patterned note sequences

Sex, violence

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Vervet monkeys' (mostly) digital system

Signal	Meaning	State
Rraup!	Yikes! Something above looks like trouble!	Fear of major avian predator.
Uh!	Yikes! Something in the grass looks like trouble!	Fear of minor mammalian predator.
Nyow!	Yikes! Something just moved which looks like trouble!	Fear of mammalian or major avian predator which has just moved.
Eh, eh!	Hi! Great to see you mommy/babykins!	Joy at mother-child reunion.