

Abstract

Singing plays a vital role not only in the communication of songbirds, but it also holds a variety of information about the singer. For example, singing can reveal a singer's age, physical ability, or individuality. At the same time, it can tell how willing the singer is to attack. For this purpose, males use signals of escalating aggression, which they apply primarily during territory defence, using them to inform each other of their motivation to fight. There are several characteristics in birdsong that are considered to be signals of escalating aggression. These include song type switching, song type matching, overlapping, song length, song rate and soft song. It appears that the nature of conflict signalling is highly variable across species. This bachelor thesis analyses these singing characteristics in depth and evaluates, according to established criteria, whether they can be considered as signals of conflict escalation in different songbird species.

Keywords: signals of conflict escalation, aggressive behaviour, territorial interaction, playback, singing characteristics, attack