

ABSTRACT

Research of bird vocalisation has been remarkably growing in the past seventy years. However, most of the published papers focused on common high-amplitude vocalisation. Despite having researchers who considered the existence of another rare low-amplitude signal more than a century ago, low-amplitude songs were overlooked until the beginning of the 20th century. Additionally, authors still using terms for the description of this scarcely recorded vocalisations inconsistently, which makes the comparison of published papers difficult. In total, I found published notes describing the existence or function of low-amplitude songs in at least 45 species, with ten species having at least two different types. This review is providing evidence that low-pitch songs might be quite widespread but overlooked signals playing a role in male-male as well as male-female interactions. Moreover, it is possible to distinguish between several types of low-amplitude songs based on their structural resemblance to the primary song. Getting all together, I am providing new terminology that might be helpful for further conclusions and could be used in future research of this hidden phenomenon.