



How Do Birds Communicate?

Part 1

Teacher Reads All living things communicate in some way. Birds have many ways to communicate, including songs, calls, and actions.

Some birds chirp, some tweet, some honk,
7 some cry “chick-a-dee.” All birds **communicate**.
15 They communicate in different ways and with
22 different goals.

24 Birds may sing to communicate. A lot of the birds
34 that sing are male. A bird’s song has sets of notes that
46 the bird sings in a pattern. The bird may sing the same
58 song lots of times.

62 Birds sing to claim a home and keep it safe. They
73 are telling other birds not to get close. And male birds
84 sing to **attract** a mate. A male bird sings to show off
96 that it is strong.

Part 2

Teacher Reads A bird’s song can sound like music. A bird’s call is different from a song. Keep reading to find out about the difference.

100 Birds may use **calls** to communicate. A call is
109 shorter than a song. There is less of a pattern in a call
122 than in a song. A call may be just a note.

133 Birds use calls for lots of things. Birds use calls to
144 frighten off predators. A bird call tells other birds of
154 risks. Calls can track down a mate or chicks. Birds use
165 calls to keep flock members close to each other when
175 they are in flight.



Part 2 continued

179 When birds see things to eat, they use calls to tell
190 others. Chicks in a nest use calls to say “feed me.”
201 They are begging for things to eat.

Part 3

Teacher Reads Besides songs and calls, birds may use actions to communicate. One kind of bird uses action to make a sound like a drum.

208 Birds may communicate with **actions**. A bird may
216 fake being hurt to lead a predator far from its nest.
227 Male birds may put on a show or a display to attract a
240 mate. One sort of male bird sweeps its wings back and
251 forth fast, making a drumming **sound**. It makes the
260 sound to attract a mate and to keep its home safe. A
272 different sort of male bird attracts a mate by clapping
282 the parts of its bill closed, making a clacking sound.
292 In order to stay safe, birds need to communicate.
301 Songs, calls, and actions are important ways for birds
310 to do that. [Learn More](#)
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