

VOCALISATIONS

Introduction

Stevens (1950) defined communication as the discriminating response of an organism to a stimulus. According to Cherry (1957), it has of functional importance in the establishment and defense of territory, often serving as a substitute for physical contact. Call notes are concerned with the coordination of behavior of other members of the species, mostly in situations which are not primarily sexual, but rather concerned with maintenance activities- feeding, flocking, migration and responses to predators. Songs of many species of birds were studied by Flood (1990), Marler (1956), McCabe (1951), and Thorpe (1956).

Skutch (1944), Labastille *et al.* (1972) described the calls of Quetzal. Skutch (1948, 1962) described the voice of White tailed Trogon and calls of the Citrine Trogon were described by Skutch (1948). However, no attempt has been made to describe or characterize call notes of Malabar Trogon except the mention of Ali and Ripley (1987). This chapter briefly describes the call notes of Malabar Trogon.

Methodology

Individual birds, pairs, and adults with juveniles were followed as long as possible to record the calls. For this a battery charged Sanyo portable voice recorder was used.

Results and discussion

The calls and songs of Malabar Trogon can be classified into:

1. Social contact call

This song is used mainly to locate mates in the thick under growth. Moderate intensity 'que' repeated normally five times in row. When it starts calls five notes were heard in one row and then slowly the number of 'que' decreases and sometimes only one.

2. Territorial call

Malabar trogons territorial call identified was 'que' with high intensity and continued up to several minutes and most of the time the calls leads to the territorial fight. Both male and female birds produce this high intensity call to announce their territory. The female version is lower in pitch and more hoarse.

2. Alarm call

'Churrrrrr' was the alarm call accompanied by an aggressive display. This song was a response to the sighting of an intruder Trogon in the territory. During the call making process both male and female birds spread out and thereby displaying the black and white bars on the outer tail feathers.

3. Breeding call

Tu-u: up to five notes in each cycle uttered by both pair bonded male and female. Some times only one call. During this, birds lowered its tail slightly. From the commencement of nest site selection these calls began to heard and after the laying this was stopped.

5. Roosting call

'Churrr-rr' was the roosting call produced by the bird while they go for roosting.

6. Begging call

This was produced only by the juveniles. This is an undeveloped 'que' with low intensity. Mostly it was seen that the chicks take large effort to produce the call.

Conclusion

Thus, the vocal repertoire of trogon consists of six calls. Which are social contact call, territorial call, alarm call, roosting call, breeding call, and begging call.

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