

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A BIRDSONG?

The vocal organ in birds is the lower larynx (syrinx), made up of membranes at the junction of the bronchi.

- We distinguish between two types of sound:
- a simple call, a short sound e.g.: beep, click
- a relatively long, more complex, complicated melody

Songbirds have the largest number of muscles in the lower larynx (4-9 pairs), while most groups of birds have only one pair.

The primary role of the bird song is in courtship, but other functions are also suspected.

Delimiting a territory: males often arrive at the breeding site earlier. This way they reserve it, signalling to rivals that the area is already occupied. They must maintain this occupation until the chicks fledge, so their singing can last for weeks. Once the males are also feeding the chicks, they sing less and less.

Many precocial species are able to recognise their own chicks. E.g. ducks

Sounds can also be used to scare off predators.

A warning sound of approaching danger.