



Bird Song

Bird song is one of the most remarkable and impressive sounds in the natural world, and has inspired not only students of natural history, but also great writers, poets and composers. Extensively updated from the first edition, the main thrust of this book is to suggest that the two main functions of song are attracting a mate and defending territory. It shows how this evolutionary pressure has led to the amazing variety and complexity we see in the songs of different species throughout the world. Writing primarily for students and researchers in animal behaviour, the authors review over 1000 scientific papers and reveal how scientists are beginning to unravel and understand how and why birds communicate with the elaborate vocalisations we call song. Highly illustrated throughout and written in straightforward language, *Bird Song* also holds appeal for amateur ornithologists with some knowledge of biology.

CLIVE CATCHPOLE is currently Professor of Animal Behaviour at Royal Holloway, University of London. He has written, broadcast and researched on many aspects of bird ecology and behaviour for more than 30 years and published over 100 books, articles and scientific papers. He has studied birds in many parts of the world and has been a visiting researcher at the Max-Planck-Institute for Ornithology in Germany and the California Academy of Sciences in the USA.

PETER SLATER is Kennedy Professor of Natural History at St Andrews University in Scotland. He is a former Editor of *Animal Behaviour* and of *Advances in the Study of Behavior* and is a Past President of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, which association awarded him its medal in 1999. In 1991 he was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is the author of around 150 scientific papers and several books, and has been studying acoustic communication, largely in birds, for 30 years.

Cover illustration: Great reed warbler: *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* singing, sun behind. Photograph by Roland Mayr. Reproduced with kind permission from Oxford Scientific (Photolibrary Group Ltd).

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-0-521-87242-3



9 780521 872423 >