

I was at the soccer field at IST from about 2:00 to 3:30 on a Thursday. It was a sunny day, but since I was sitting under a tree, I was shaded. The grass felt slightly damp, so I assumed it had either been recently watered or had rained earlier. I was surrounded by open land, except for the tree next to me. A little farther away, there was a soccer net and the IST buildings, which included the one with Mr. Z's classroom, the gym, and the building housing the MYP hall and PYP.

The sounds I heard included an airplane, a leaf blower, birds chirping, and the chirping of crickets. At first, I didn't notice any particular smells, but then I picked up a sweet scent, followed by the smell of grass. As for what I saw, there were dragonflies, a butterfly, trees with purple flowers, and spiders. I was surprised to find that although I couldn't see the birds when I opened my eyes, I could still hear them chirping.

This observation was interesting because I became aware of sounds, smells, and sights that I usually wouldn't pay attention to. I also found it intriguing to learn that crickets create their sound by rubbing their front wings together, a behavior they use to attract mates. What I observed connects to what I already know because I recognize that these things are common, but when you're not consciously focused on them, they tend to go unnoticed.

It makes me wonder what else I might notice in different environments. For example, if I were in a rainforest, I'd probably hear more animal sounds. I'm also curious about why the birds are chirping—whether it's for mating, marking territory, or communicating with each other about migration. I could learn more by researching these questions.

Birds chirp for various reasons: to attract a mate, mark their territory, warn other birds, or communicate with each other. The type of chirp can convey different messages. For example, "Some birds use specific calls to alert others to predators, while others chirp while hunting together to stay coordinated. Thrushes, warblers, and finches are among the species most effective at using songs and calls to attract mates." ([Mass Audubon 2025](#))

If I were to experiment to determine which bird is most effective at attracting a mate, I would review studies comparing the top three species known for their mating calls. Then, I would acquire three males and three females, ensuring that none of the birds belong to the same species. I would place them in the same isolated environment and observe which bird attracts a mate first. I could repeat the experiment multiple times to ensure the results weren't just coincidental.

A new generation of scientists has been studying bird vocalizations and has made significant progress. “A newer generation of scientists has been trying to understand bird vocalizations. The alarm calls of Siberian jays can be said to have been partially translated. One of their screeches indicates a sitting hawk (which prompts other jays to come together in a group), another a flying hawk (jays hide, which makes them difficult to spot), and a third a hawk actively attacking (jays fly to the treetops to search for the attacker, and possibly flee).” ([The New York](#) October 2024)

By comparing the brain structures of pigeons with those of other mammals, including humans, scientists discovered that areas of the brain involved in high-level cognition, like long-term memory and problem-solving, are similarly wired. There is also a link between how pigeons learn "words" and how children acquire language. So by learning the similarities and differences of human brains and bird brains it might help you understand the language of the birds.([NDTV](#) Feb 2015)

We also need to account if birds speak differently based on their biomes. “bird species may merely vary the pitch of their song, more akin to accent, while others might change a whole phrase, which is comparable to a change in a dialect.” (Galchen [New Yorker](#) Oct 2024) There is a difference between the different birdsong of different biomes and I could prove this by putting up microphones to hear the similarities and differences between birdsong across the world.

In conclusion I could use the experiments to help understand the language of the birds which could then help understand other animal languages.