

Relationship between Bird Size and Response to Screech Owl Calls

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Abstract

While engaging in bird mobbing trials, it was noted that there seemed to be a correlation between bird size and response to Screech Owl calls. It seemed as if smaller birds were showing more responses to the Screech Owl calls than larger birds. If smaller birds prove to be reacting more towards the Screech Owl calls than larger birds, then it can be said that there could be a relationship between bird size and response to Screech Owl calls. During research, bird mobbing responses in experimental trials were compared to the responses in controlled trials. The experimental trials involved playing a recording of Screech Owl calls for 10 minutes and recording the bird activity; the controlled trials were the same, but Red-eyed Vireo calls played for 10 minutes. Bird species and the abundance of that species were recorded when the tapes of the Red-eyed Vireo and Screech Owl calls were playing. During the bird mobbing trials, the materials that were used were tapes of the bird calls, a tape recorder, a bird field guide, binoculars, and data sheets. Tests, such as the Mann-Whitney test, were used to distinguish whether there was a relationship between bird size and response to Screech Owl calls. After developing the hypothesis, the tests used during evaluation indicated no relationship between bird size and response to Screech Owl calls.