



## Birds Calling and Singing at Night<sup>1</sup>

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| <b>Species:</b>                        | northern mockingbird, northern cardinal, common grackle, blue jay, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, limpkin, chuck-wills-widow, owls, and American crow are the species most frequently accused of causing problems by calling and singing at night and very early in the morning |
| <b>Habitat:</b>                        | urban, suburban, and rural   |
| <b>Bird Sounds:</b>                    | birds make 2 different kinds of sounds, calls and songs.   |
|  | calls are brief sounds without a pattern. Calls are generally concerned with coordinating behaviors such as flocking, feeding, and reactions to predators.   |
|  | songs are a longer series of notes in a pattern. Each species has its own unique song which usually functions to announce territories and to attract mates. There are many individual variations of each species' song.  |
|  | mockingbirds, crows, and blue jays can mimic other species' calls and songs.   |
|  | sound is important for birds. For example, studies have found that deaf birds are poor parents because they cannot hear their offspring's calls for food.  |
| <b>Problem:</b>                        | loud bird calls and songs at night and early in the morning sometimes wake and/or annoy people   |
| <b>Why Birds <u>Call</u> at Night:</b> | reaction to disturbance  |
|  | reaction to a predator such an owl or cat  |
|  | some species (e.g. limpkin and chuck-wills-widow) typically call only at night   |
| <b>Why Birds <u>Sing</u> at Night:</b> | street and security lights make bird think it is dawn and time to announce its territory   |
| <b>Solutions:</b>                      | In the evening, when birds are going to their nighttime roosts, create enough disturbance to discourage the bird from using that site.   |
|  | close windows and turn on air conditioner and/or radio to drown out bird sound   |
| <b>Legal Aspects:</b>                  | permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission are required to use lethal control methods or to destroy nests  |
| <b>Fact Sheet Available:</b>           | no   |

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