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0521017971 - Social Influences on Vocal Development
Edited by Charles T. Snowdon and Martine Hausberger
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For at least 30 years, there have been close parallels between studies of bird song development and those of the development of human language. Both song and language require species-specific stimulation at a sensitive period in development and subsequent practice through subsong and plastic song in birds and babbling in infant humans, leading to the development of characteristic vocalizations for each species.

This book illustrates how social interactions during development can shape vocal learning and extend the sensitive period beyond infancy and how social companions can induce flexibility even into adulthood. Social companions in a wide range of species, including not only birds and humans but also cetaceans and nonhuman primates, play important roles in shaping vocal production, as well as the comprehension and appropriate usage of vocal communication.

Social influences on vocal development will be required reading for students and researchers interested in animal and human communication and its development.

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EDITED BY

CHARLES T. SNOWDON

*John T. Emlen Professor of Psychology and Zoology,
University of Wisconsin, Madison*

AND MARTINE HAUSBERGER

*Directeur de Recherches, CNRS, UMR 373:
Ethologie, Evolution, Ecologie, Université de Rennes I*



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Contributors

- Luis F. Baptista**, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118, USA
- Eleanor D. Brown**, Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution Washington, DC 20560, USA
- Dorothy L. Cheney**, Department of Biology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA
- A. Margaret Elowson**, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin, 1202 West Johnson Street, Madison, WI, 53706-1696, USA
- Susan M. Farabaugh**, Department of Anatomy, School of Medicine, Auckland University, Auckland, New Zealand
- Todd M. Freeberg**, Department of Psychology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA
- Sandra L. L. Gaunt**, Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, Department of Zoology, Ohio State University, 1735 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210-1293, USA
- Susan Goldin-Meadow**, Department of Psychology, University of Chicago, 5730 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637, USA
- Marjorie Harness Goodwin**, Department of Anthropology, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90024, USA
- Martine Hausberger**, Ethologie, Evolution, Ecologie, CNRS, UMR 373, Université de Rennes I, Campus de Beaulieu, F-35042 Rennes Cedex, France
- Annick Jouanjean-l'Antoëne**, Ethologie, Evolution, Ecologie, CNRS, UMR 373, Université de Rennes I, Campus de Beaulieu, F-35042 Rennes Cedex, France
- Andrew P. King**, Department of Psychology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA
- John L. Locke**, Department of Speech Science, University of Sheffield, 20 Claremont Crescent, Sheffield S10 2TA, UK
- Brenda McCowan**, Marine Research Center, Marine World Foundation, Marine World Parkway, Vallejo, CA 94589, USA
- Douglas A. Nelson**, Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, Department of Zoology, Ohio State University, 1735 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210-1293, USA
- Laura L. Payne**, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079, USA
- Robert B. Payne**, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079, USA
- Irene Maxine Pepperberg**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA
- Diana Reiss**, Department of Biology, Columbia University, New York, NY 10022, USA
- Rebecca S. Roush**, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA
- Laela S. Sayigh**, Department of Biological Sciences, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC 28403, USA
- Robert M. Seyfarth**, Department of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA
- Catherine Snow**, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
- Charles T. Snowdon**, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin, 1202 West Johnson Street, Madison, WI 53706-1696, USA
- Peter L. Tyack**, Department of Biology, Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution, Wood's Hole, MA 02543, USA
- Meredith J. West**, Department of Psychology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA
- Richard Zann**, School of Zoology, Faculty of Science and Technology, LaTrobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia