

You will know authors by how they cite this performance literature:

Introductory quote from Kroodsma 2017. Birdsong performance studies: A sad commentary. *Animal Behavior* 133:209-210.

*I agree with Cardoso and Podos in that there is much to learn in trying to understand what birds hear and how they might assess one another based on song. But which research programme can pursue these topics with sufficient objectivity, independence and credibility? One of the best clues is offered by the citations that authors choose to support and bolster their own work. With my Forum article in hand, Podos et al. (2016) continued to cite at face value almost all of the papers that I had reported as severely flawed, thus either implicitly or explicitly defending these works (see also Goodwin & Podos, 2015; Podos, 2017). In contrast, Byers, Akresh, and King (2016), when studying 'Song and male quality in prairie warblers', *Setophaga discolor* (as quoted from their title), chose to frame their thoughts without reference to these papers. Authors choose the framework for their arguments and discussions but lose credibility when they rely on flawed research to reinforce their own work.*

Jennifer N. Phillips and Elizabeth P. Derryberry. 2017. Equivalent effects of bandwidth and trill rate: support for a performance constraint as a competitive signal. *Animal Behavior* 132:209-215.

*"Numerous studies have tested whether this measure of vocal performance is an index signal. These experiments demonstrate that females prefer high-performance songs over low performance songs (canaries, *Serinus canaria*: Drag anoiu, Nagle, & Kreutzer, 2002; swamp sparrows, *Melospiza georgiana*: Ballentine, Hyman, & Nowicki, 2004; Lincoln's sparrows, *Melospiza lincolnii*: Caro, Sewall, Salvante, & Sockman, 2010; banded wrens, *Thryophilus pleurostictus*: Cramer, Hall, de Kort, Lovette, & Vehrencamp, 2011; singing mice (*Scotinomys spp.*): Pasch, George, Campbell, & Phelps, 2011). Additionally, males respond to variation in vocal performance during competition (Cramer & Price, 2007; Dubois, Nowicki, & Searcy, 2011; Illes, Hall, & Vehrencamp, 2006; de Kort, Eldermire, Cramer, & Vehrencamp, 2009; Moseley, Lahti, & Podos, 2013), at least in some species (but see Cramer, 2013a, 2013b). Vocal performance also correlates with male quality or motivation in some species. For example, in banded wrens, vocal performance increases with age (Vehrencamp, Yantachka, Hall, & de Kort, 2013) and males with high vocal performance attain more extrapair copulations (Cramer et al., 2011). In swamp sparrows, males with higher vocal performance tend to be older and bigger (Ballentine, 2009). Trill rate also tends to indicate motivation in both of these species (DuBois, Nowicki, & Searcy, 2009; Vehrencamp et al., 2013). Although there is support for the function of performance as measured by vocal deviation in sexual selection, there are differences in the methodological approaches used to test the function*

of vocal deviation, presenting some unanswered questions (Cardoso, 2017; Kroodsma, 2017; Podos, 2017; Vehrencamp, de Kort, & Illes, 2017).”

Kroodsma comment: Really? “differences in methodological approaches”?

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