

## CALLS OF THE WILD

A Celebration of Communication

### Pages 4-5

#### Bark

Frogs, gorillas, owls and geckos

**Barking tree frogs** live along coastlines in the southeastern United States. During spring rains, males attract females with loud calls that sound like a small dog barking. They make this noise as they climb from high in the treetops down to the body of water where the frogs mate.

**Mountain gorillas** use twenty-five different calls to talk to their friends. As the giant apes roam through dense mountain forests in search of food, they bark and grunt to keep track of each other. Sometimes they bark harshly to scold misbehaving gorillas.

**Barking owls** can be found in Australia and on some nearby islands. They usually live in pairs and roost in large trees close to water. At dawn and dusk, males and females call to one another with a short, low groan followed by a loud double bark.

**Common barking geckos** live in hot desert areas of southern Africa. They rest underground all day long. As the sun sets, they come out of their burrows and bark to let other geckos know where they are.

### Pages 6-7

#### Bellow

Deer, koalas, gators, hippos

When female **white-tailed deer** are ready to mate, they bellow loudly. It's their way of saying, "I'm over here, boys. Come find me." And males get the message. They thrash through the fields and forests in search of the sound.

Most of the time **koalas** are quiet and calm. But the males really make a racket at mating time. Their deep, growling bellows help females find them. Why do bigger males attract more mates? They can bellow longer, so it's easier for females to track them down.

**American alligators** make all kinds of sounds to let other animals know they aren't happy. They roar, snarl, and even hiss. But when alligators are ready to mate, dozens of males and females get together for a loud, bellowing chorus.

As **hippopotamuses** lounge in African watering holes, they make low, bellowing calls above and below the water's surface. The sounds let other hippos know where they are and what they're up to.

## Pages 8-9

### Chirp

Sparrows, chipmunks, shrews and crickets

In the spring, male **house sparrows** chirp, chirp, chirp nonstop for up to thirty minutes. After a short break, they start all over again. They're sending females a message: "Hey, I've got a great nesting site. Come mate with me."

If an enemy gets too close, **chipmunks** take action. They let out a long string of birdlike chirps to warn their family. Females also chirp at mating time. It's a great way to attract males.

**Northern short-tailed shrews** may be small, but they like their own space. If they spot another shrew getting too close, they chirp softly. It's their way of saying, "Back off!"

Male **field crickets** chirp to attract mates. How do they make their special sound? By rubbing the top of one wing against a comb-like structure on the bottom of the other wing.

## Pages 10-11

### Chatter

Mice and lemurs, squirrels and kinglets

When **deer mice** spot an enemy, they have a special way of alerting friends and family. They thump their feet on the ground and make a chattering sound with their teeth.

**Ruffed lemurs** use at least seventeen different calls to stay in touch. When a lemur chatters to its neighbor, it's saying, "Don't worry. I won't pick a fight. I know you're stronger than me."

When **American red squirrels** sense a predator lurking nearby, they chatter loudly. It's their way of letting the enemy know that it's been spotted.

At mating time, male **ruby-crowned kinglets** belt out a high-pitched whistling song. But most of the time, these tiny birds make a happy chattering chant: *tee tee tee tew tew tew tew ti-dadee ti-dadee ti-dadee*.

## Pages 12-13

### Whistle

Whales and cougars, sloths and dolphins

What are the loudest animals alive today? **Blue whales**. They're whistling calls put heavy metal rock bands to shame. So why don't swimmers go deaf? The pitch of the whales' whistles is so low that we can't hear them.

**Cougars** can't roar like a lion, but they can hiss, growl, chirp, peep, and purr. Each sound has a different meaning. A female cougar belts out a shrill whistle when she wants to call her kittens.

Most of the time, **three-toed sloths** hang upside down and do their best to blend in with their rainforest surroundings. But if a young sloth gets lost, it makes a rising whistle call until its mother appears.

**Bottle-nosed dolphins** are very chatty animals. In fact, these ocean mammals use at least thirty different sounds to keep in touch. Dolphin moms whistle to call their babies. And when dolphins spot a school of fish, they use patterns of whistles to come up with a hunting plan.

## Pages 14-15

### Whine

Bears, mosquitoes, wolves and martens

Adult **black bears** usually don't make a sound. But cubs scream when they're upset and hum when they're happy. When do they whine? Whenever they feel like it. Some cubs get whiny when they see their mom. Others whine while they wrestle with their brothers and sisters.

You've heard it lots of times—a **mosquito's** annoying whine. Ever wondered how the pesky insects make that sound? By beating their wings. Scientists think mosquitoes use the sound to find members of their own species.

**Gray wolves** are closely related to dogs, but they hardly ever bark. They howl to stay in touch with members of their pack, and the whine softly to greet one another.

**American martens** spend most of their time alone, and they like it that way. When two martens meet, they huff, chuckle, pant, and growl at one another. If the smaller, weaker animal is smart, it whines and makes a soft eeping sound as it backs away.

## Pages 16-17

### Growl

Parrots, cobras, fish, flamingos

**African gray parrots** are popular pets, but their natural home is in the rainforests of West and Central Africa. When these birds make a low rumbling growl, it means they're worried or scared.

Most snakes hiss, but not the 18-foot-long **king cobras** of Southeast Asia. When they're about to strike, they make a low growling moan.

At mating time, a male **midshipman fish** builds a nest. Then it hums to attract a female and growls to keep other males away.

**Caribbean flamingos** really make a racket. It's their way of keeping the flock together. The big pink birds honk, grunt, and growl while their feeding and while they're flying. At mating time, their calls get even louder and deeper.

### Pages 18-19

#### Grunt

Otters, pigs, and armadillos

Chirps. Chuckles. Growls. Grunts. **River otters** make all these sounds—and more. These cute little critters usually grunt while they're playing or grooming.

**Bearded pigs** live in the rainforests of Southeast Asia. They grunt softly as they wander through woodlands feeding on roots, fruits, and insects. The sound means they feel calm and safe.

Where do **nine-banded armadillos** live? The southern United States, Mexico, and Central and South America. The tough-shelled creatures make low, wheezy grunting sounds as they dig through the soil for insects and other tasty treats.

### Pages 20-21

#### Honk

Penguins, pandas, hammerhead bats

What does a **penguin** do when it really wants to be heard? It lifts its head high, takes a deep breath, and lets out a long, loud honking call.

**Giant pandas** might seem pretty quiet, but they can make all kinds of sounds. They often chirp when they're happy or excited, and they honk when they're worried or upset.

**Hammerhead bats** live near rivers in Central Africa. At mating time, the males hang from trees and honk their hearts out. Females fly around the trees and choose the male with the song they like best.

### Pages 22-23

#### Hiss

Skunks and geese and naked mole rats

What does it mean when **striped skunks** hiss and stomp their feet? RUN! Stinky skunk spray is on its way.

When a fox, raccoon, or weasel sneaks up on a flock of **Canada geese**, the birds hiss loudly and open their wings wide to look bigger. That's enough to scare off most hungry hunters.

**Naked mole rats** spend their whole lives burrowing through the soils of East Africa. When they encounter a hungry snake, the little mammals let out a gurgling hiss and scam! Luckily, they can dart backward just as fast as they rush forward.

### Pages 24-25

#### Squeal

Weasels, woodchucks, towhees, hedgehogs

**Short-tailed weasels** may be small, but they're vicious predators. They'll eat any small mammal that crosses their path. When the little hunters are happy they make a tri-l-l-l-l-l-ing call. But when they're in trouble, they make a high-pitched squeal.

**Woodchucks** were named for their chuck-chuck call. But the little animal can also whistle, squeal, bark, and hiss. When do woodchucks squeal? When they are fighting with one another or have been wounded by a predator.

**Albert's towhees** live in the southwestern United States. After males and females spend time apart, they greet one another with a series of squeals.

**European hedgehogs** live in forests and grasslands of Europe and northern Asia. The little animals squeal softly when they feel worried or afraid.

### **Pages 26-27**

#### **Squeak**

Rhinos, tapirs, rats and bush dogs

When female **black rhinoceroses** are ready to mate, they make a high-pitch squeaking sound. That's they're way of telling males, "It's time!"

**Baird's tapirs** spend most of their lives alone, and they don't make many sounds. When baby tapirs belt out a series of high-pitched squeaks, it means they're afraid and are ready to flee.

**Rats** make all kinds of squeaking sounds. They let out short, soft squeaks while they clean themselves. The squeaks are short, but louder when they're arguing with another rat. And they cry out with long, loud squeaks when they're really upset.

**Bush dogs** live in dense forests in Central and South America. While they hunt for small mammals, snakes, lizards, and birds, the little animals squeak softly to keep in constant contact.

### **Pages 28-29**

#### **Purr**

Raccoons, rabbits, badgers, turkeys

When baby **raccoons** are upset, they make a choppy, worried purring noise. Their mother tries to calm them with a low, rumbling purr. When the youngsters feel safe, they mimic their mom's soft purring.

**Cottontail rabbits** make a purring noise by grinding their teeth. Quiet, gentle purring means their happy and relaxed. But a louder sound usually means they're in pain.

**European badgers** make at least sixteen different calls. But only mother badgers purr. They use the soft, deep, throaty sound to keep their cubs calm. Moms purr while they're grooming their babies or carrying them around. And they purr when they wants the little ones to follow them and stay close.

When all is well, **wild turkeys** make a soft, rolling purr. What's one activity that's sure to trigger the sound? Eating.

### **Pages 30-31**

#### **Peep**

Plovers, peepers, chicks and monkeys

As **pipng plovers** fly over beaches and sand dunes, they call to one another with soft, soothing melodies: *Peep, peep, peep, peep-lo*. When the little birds sense trouble, they warn their families with shrill *peep-lo* alarm calls.

**Spring peepers** may be tiny, but they have big voices. On warm spring nights, the frogs gather in the trees and shrubs around wetlands and belt out their short, high-pitched calls. The faster and louder a male peeper peeps, the more likely he is to attract a mate.

**Chicks** start peeping while they're still inside their eggs. And after they hatch, they keep on peep, peep, peeping. When a little chicken feels safe and secure, it peeps softly. But if the baby bird loses track of its mother, it cries out with loud, worried peeps.

**Squirrel monkeys** squeal and whistle, twitter and chirp as they move through the rainforest canopy in search of food. But when one of them spots a hungry harpy eagle overhead, it lets out a high-pitched peep and dives for cover.

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**Shhhhh!**

[Art note: Please show Earthworm, Ant, Spider]