

Figure1. Spectrograms of calls played to great tit, coal tit and chaffinch: (a) FME - D mobbing call of the great tit showing call with introductory frequency modulated elements (FME) (similar to chickadee A or B elements) and subsequent D notes (D) and (b) DFME call is a reversed combination of FME and D calls. These calls were produced with Avisoft - SASLab©

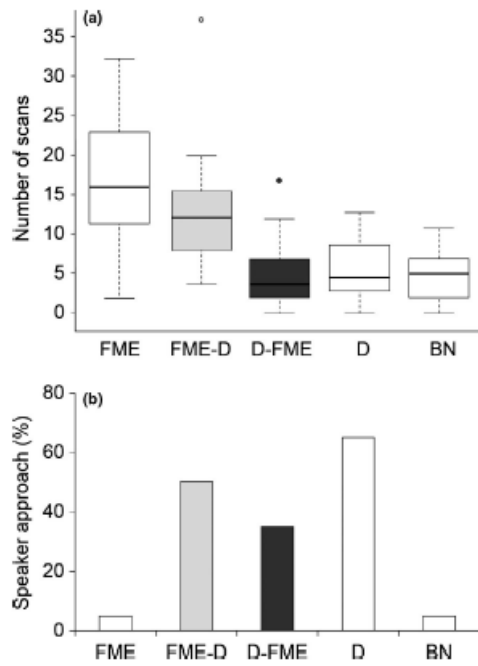


Figure 2. Responses of great tits to playbacks of FME, FME - D, D - FME, D and control (BN) test types. (a) Number of scans made by tits during playback (generalized linear mixed model: $F_{4,23} = 14.9$; $p < 0.0001$). Horizontal line: median value; box ends: upper and lower quartiles; whiskers: variation range of values. (b) Percentage of trials in which tits approached the loudspeaker (generalized linear mixed model: $F_{4,23} = 4.17$; $p = 0.011$). Sample size: $n = 100$ individuals. Each individual was exposed to only one per test type, giving $n = 20$ per test type

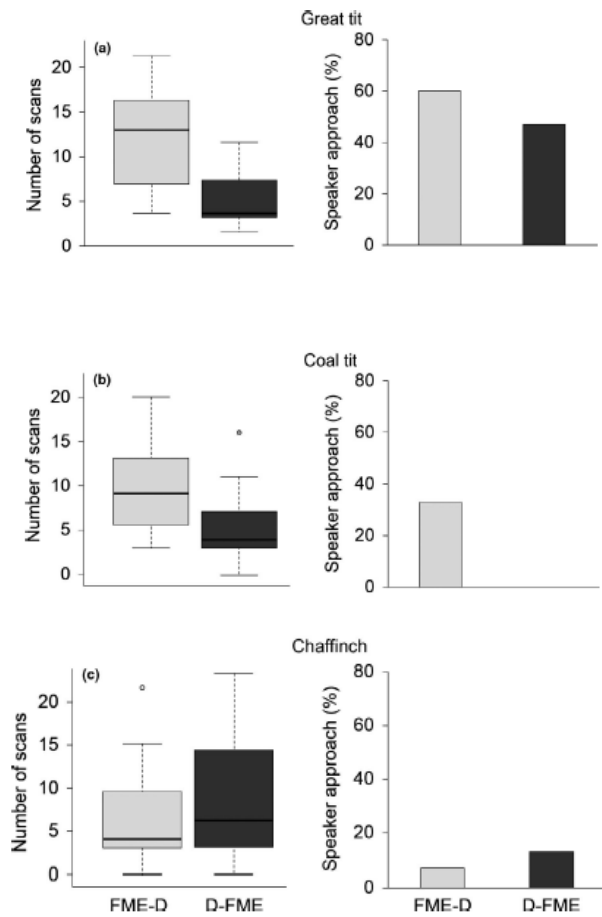


Figure 3. Number of horizontal scans and percentage of trials in which (a) great tits, (b) coal tits and (c) chaffinches approached the loudspeaker during the presentations of the playbacks of FME - D and artificially reversed D - FME motifs of mobbing signals. Horizontal line: median value; box ends: upper and lower quartiles; whiskers: variation range of values. Sample size: n = 90 individuals (n = 30 per species and 15 per test type)