

General Comments:

I loved how the authors gave playbacks and recorded individual responses without being there, this takes away the effects of presence of human observer. I would like to see this published so that biologist may use/ modify this setup. However, my main concern with this system is that it uses a high level of technical skill that is not usual among biologists and I am not sure how easy it would be for a biologist to implement given that one has to be familiar with programming in Python (many biologist have no programming skills). It is nice that they provide the code, however, but blindly using someone else's code is not something I would recommend. That being said, that is the problem of any field biologists seeking to use this technology and maybe more field biologists should learn a programming language 😊

A few pedantic remarks you may want to consider. Raspberry Pi is not necessarily the cheapest microcomputing hardware out there (there are other single board computers out there depending on your needs). Also, you may want to consider telling the readers that you could also interface using Bluetooth technology (takes away the need for a keyboard), this could allow for using an iphone or tablet in the field. Or you could have a big antenna at the field station with a wireless receiver and then you may be able to have the computer send the data direct via wireless technology from field sites up to about 10 km away (depending on antenna and the topography).

Specific Comments:

line 5- typo, change to 'Department'

line 78- spell out OS

line 104- what is the average weight of male and female tree swallows?

line 105- who's begging calls did you playback to the female? Her offspring? and if so, when/how were these calls recorded? (I know that this is not as important in the context of the technical nature of this MS, but a couple lines on this would be nice to demonstrate/ clarify if you specified different stimuli for each individual female, because this would take more memory to store, and more code to specify which stimulus is played to which female).

line 209- you used earbuds for playback. so, how loud was the stimuli (dB) and how did that compare to natural nestling begging calls ?

line 142- delete 'to' → "used ~~to~~ for a variety of purposes".

line 187- word missing...a wooden or cardboard 'divider' or 'partition'?