

INLAND 16.3

BECAUSE GRAVITY OVERPOWERS ME

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of this land, for which sovereignty was never ceded, and wish to pay respect to elders past and present of the kulin nation, and to any Indigenous Australians present



ALEXANDER GARDEN: SUFFER THE SUN (2016)
STEEL STRING GUITAR

SCOTT MCCONNACHIE
ALTO SAXOPHONE

SABINA MASELLI: YAYAH & TRISNAWATI TEACHING THE SMOKE TO DANCE (2012)
VIDEO AND SOUND

- SHORT BREAK -

ROHAN DRAPE: OF THE BRIEF TIME I WAS IN LOVE WITH THE GIRL WHO LOOKED LIKE GRASS (2016)
SYNTHESIZER, ORGAN, COMPUTER

ANTHONY PATERAS, ERKKI VELTHEIM: THE SLOW CREEP OF CONVENIENCE (2016)
CHURCH ORGAN, ELECTRIC VIOLIN

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RESULTS

Individual display postures

The fieldwork for this study was carried out before the recent papers on courtship in Wandering Albatrosses by Jouventin & Lequette (1990) and Lequette & Jouventin (1991a) and the reviews by Warham (1996) and Tickell (2000). As far as possible consistency with the nomenclature used by these authors has been retained, referencing Tickell (2000) in all cases. A total of 22 distinct behavioural acts was identified during courtship: 12 directed towards the display partner (seven of which were accompanied by vocalisations), five head movements, three ritualised preening activities and two locomotory acts. These were described as follows:

Allo-preening

Allo-preening (AP) (Fig. 1) was normally directed towards the head, neck or breast feathers and was frequently performed by paired birds or those in an advanced stage of pair bond formation as distinct from Auto-Preening (PR).

Pointing

When Pointing, the bird stretches its head and neck rigidly towards a partner (Tickell 2000). Pointing was sub-divided into Head Forward Low (FL) (Fig. 2a) which was usually directed to the partner's breast ('Breast Billing' of Jouventin & Lequette, 1990) and Head Forward High (FH) (Fig. 2b) which was normally directed to the partner's bill (similar to 'Bill Pointing' in Warham (1996), where the male's head is slightly higher than the female's). Pointing may become synchronised with the extended bills of two birds being held close, often touching each other (Touch Beaks (TB), Fig. 2c) and frequently ends with a pronounced Snap. We also used Bill Nibble (BN) when one bird gently nibbles the side of the other's bill.

Rattle

Mandibles are Rattled (R) or vibrated rapidly through shallow arcs and volleys of loud, pulsed, rubbery sounds and the head is drawn back and slowly raised (Fig. 3).

Head Roll

We used the term Head Roll (HR) instead of 'Arched Neck' (Jouventin & Lequette 1990), for the movement of the head backwards and down while the bill is tucked in towards the neck then thrust rapidly up and forward, stretching the neck out (Figs 4a & 4b).

Snap

Single bill Snaps (SN) occur when mandibles are snapped together smartly without a forward lunge, often into the air. The sound produced resembles that made by striking two pieces of wood together.

Sky Point

In Sky Point (SP), termed 'Sky-Position' by Jouventin & Lequette (1990), the head is lowered slightly then swung to the near vertical (70–90° from horizontal, Fig. 5a). This can be performed from a sitting or standing position and is essentially a quiet action but may be accompanied by a deep, guttural, gurgling noise when performed vigorously.

Sky Call

Sky Call (SK) is a much more excitable performance ('Sky-Position-Call' by Jouventin & Lequette, 1990, 'Head, Shake and Whine' by Warham, 1996) when the head is swung up with opened beak so that the head and neck are at 45° or more and a series of vocalisations are emitted with the head and bill motionless but often with wings outstretched (Fig. 5b). A rapid inhalation with distinct harmonics followed by a loud scream accompanies the Sky Call which Jouventin & Lequette (1990) termed 'Whine' and Warham (1996) 'Wing Stretch'. Although birds sometimes gave only one scream it was more typical to perform between two and five Sky Calls in succession. The second Sky Call was normally performed immediately after the first but subsequent Sky Calls were usually separated by Yammering.

Bowing

Bowing is a rapid movement when the bird swings its head down towards its feet, often touching its lower breast and, if standing, may reach between its legs; it is highly variable sometimes involving just the head (nod) but usually more of the body is involved. We sub-divided this behaviour into Head Bob (HB) (Fig. 6a) when the bird stopped 10–20 cm above the ground and Head Curl (HC) (Fig. 6b) when the head was twisted to the side bringing one eye facing forward towards the display partner and the other towards the bird's own feet.

Side Preen

A standing bird raises its head quickly, makes a single Snap, then plunges its bill into the feathers on one side of the breast (SNPR, Fig. 7a). This behaviour was called 'Scapular Action' by Jouventin & Lequette (1990) and 'Leg Action' by Warham (1996). Front Preen Front Preen (PB) has less movement; the bill preens feathers of the upper breast or the neck (Fig. 7b).

Flagging

In Flagging a bird walks upright turning its head from side to side (Head Wag – HW). Head Shake (HS, Fig. 8) describes when the head is jerked from side to side horizontally so that the mandibles rattle loosely together.

Yammering

Yammering (YM) is an aggressive act when the bird stretches its neck and head, utters a powerful call and violently claps its mandibles at about 10 claps per second and is often directed at an intruder without any movement (Fig. 9).

Yapping

Yapping (YA) is used to describe up and down head motions and slightly opened bill (Fig. 10) uttering gruff waa–waa–waa vocalisations at about 2–3 waas per second. This behaviour was typically performed by a bird sitting on a nest site. Jouventin & Lequette (1990) used 'Duet' to define partners simultaneously Yapping.

In addition to these stereotyped behaviours, two locomotory behaviours were also recognised. During courtship bouts birds often Walk Around (WA) each other, typically with a rolling gait with their heads and necks stretched forward horizontally. Birds sometimes walk upright with their head up and without this exaggerated swaying which was termed 'Sway Walk' by Warham (1996). We also used Walk to Nest site (WTN) when birds stopped displaying and the female followed the male back to his nest site where they would continue to display and/or sit Yapping.