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The use of bird sound imitations and recordings among Estonian birders”

Abstract: Species around the world use a number of different methods to interact with one another. The use of sound is one of the ways in which this interaction occurs. This talk will discuss the use of sound by humans in amateur birdwatching and professional ornithology, with a focus on Estonia. In order to discuss the diverse methods used in vocal mimicry like bird calls, pishing, whistling, and bird-sound recordings, a survey was created and subsequently distributed among Estonian birders in the spring and the summer of 2018. There were nearly seventy respondents to the survey, and the survey was supplemented by semi-structured interviews with around half a dozen respondents. The talk will discuss the results of the study, and how the recent changes in technology, like the availability of smartphones and portable loudspeakers, impact the interaction between humans and birds.

Advisor: Prof. Riin Magnus

Note: This work is part of a Master's Thesis (to be written in Spring 2019) at the Department of Semiotics, University of Tartu, and was carried out under the supervision of Prof. Riin Magnus.