Nature Sounds

**When the morning stars sang together,**

**and all the sons of God shouted for joy.**

***(Job 38:7)***

**O sing to the Lord a new song;**

**sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

***(Psalm 96:1)***

**Beaches where the sand sings: For many a beachgoer, sand is a hassle -- clinging to hair, towels, even sandwiches. "But what if the sand is the draw?" asked Kastalia Medrano in Thrillist.com. At a handful of beaches around the world -- including some along the Atlantic coast and around Lake Superior and Lake Michigan -- the sand produces a sound best described as squeaking or whistling. The phenomenon requires completely dry sand with round grains that aren't too large or too small. Wind sometimes prompts the mysterious resonance -- but so can feet. To trigger the effect, find a dry patch away from the water; "then -- and there's really no other way to describe this -- waddle forward like you're a penguin." The trick is to shuffle your feet quickly without lifting them. Canada's Prince Edward Island has at least one beach where you can hear the sand's song. Perhaps better known is a public beach in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass. Its name: Singing Beach. *(The Week magazine, May 17, 2019)***

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**The password to get into a beehive is some sort of noise just like a queen bee makes. The diphead sphinx moth is the only insect not a bee that can utter this password. It oftentimes lays its eggs in hives. *(L. M. Boyd)***

African bees don’t sound like domestic bees because they beat their wings faster, so buzz at a high pitch. *(L. M. Boyd)*

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Lowest musical note among bird calls is that of the great horned owl, otherwise known as the hoot owl. *(L. M. Boyd)*

**What sort of song a canary sings depends on the season. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Tell that corn raiser you can hear bamboo grow, too. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Jimminy Cricket is a soprano – the song he sings with his wings tunes in at about high C. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Chirping of crickets can get noisy. It’s reported some housing sites have failed to qualify for federal financing because cricket chirps thereabouts exceeded the government’s allowable noise levels. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**There are fish that use sounds for defense and as part of their reproductive process. Although most fish do not have vocal cords, many are able to make sounds, usually by vibrating their swim bladder or rubbing parts of their skeleton together. They produce such noises as squeaks, whistles, coughs, and snapping or grinding noises. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 123)***

**Most male frogs sing to choirs, but not the bullfrogs. They are soloists. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**The singing sands of the Gobi Desert wind blowing over the sand dunes causes a constant sound that varies from a roll of drums to a deep chant. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Odd Places, p. 46)***

**The famous “Singing Sands” of the Sinai, the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, the Atacama Desert in Chile and the Empty Quarter in Saudi Arabia remain mysteries. As the sand is disturbed, the dunes wail like stringed instruments, boom like low organ notes, chime like bells or thunder like drums. Although temperature changes and shifting sand account for many desert sounds, scientists have not yet been able to explain the singing sands. *(Quoted in Grit)***

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**If the honeybee flaps its wings 435 times a second – that’s normal – it is playing A above the Middle C. Listen, though, because if it’s playing the E that’s one tired bee. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**One study of the housefly revealed that it whines the note F in the middle octave, by vibrating its wings 21,120 times a minute. If flat then turn up the heat. The warmer insects are the more active they become. *(Jean George, in The Living World of Nature, p. 133)***

**The katydid makes music by lifting his wings and running the edge of one over some 200 saw-like points on the other. In the base of their wings they possess a miniaturized amplifier less than one-eighth of an inch in size. The Navy applied some of the principles to its sound- signaling program. *(Jean George, in The Living World of Nature, p. 131)***

**When prairie chickens feel romantic, they deliver a mating call that sounds like “boom!” So do alligators, but it’s a much bigger “Boom!” *(L. M. Boyd)***

The female mosquito, beating her wings up to 500 times a second, creates the high-pitched hum that is so unsettling as you lie in a camp trying to go to sleep without a mosquito net. *(David Attenborough)*

Russian scientists discovered a muscle makes a small noise when it moves. Sounds like a musical note if greatly amplified. Each muscle makes a different note. The body of a person, wired up like a porcupine, can be played by that person just like an organ. Now they are composing special melodies, the playing of which will give extra exercise to the muscles that need the work. *(L. M. Boyd)*

**The Pythagoreans believed that everything which existed had a voice and that all creatures were eternally singing the praise of the Creator. Man fails to hear these divine melodies because his soul is enmeshed in the illusion of material existence. When he liberates himself from the bondage of the lower world with its sense limitations, the music of the spheres will again be audible as it was in the Golden Age. *(Manly P. Hall)***

**Parakeets do vocalize, but do not sing. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A San Francisco guitarist has released an album of "duets" with the Golden Gate Bridge featuring his guitar improvisations over the eerie hum created by the Bay Area landmark. Nate Mercureau first heard about the bridges sounds – produced by wind passing through the metal slats – after reading about nearby residents' complaints. But when he heard the bridge's metallic moaning, he was struck by its beauty. "It's remarkably musical," he said. "It plays multiple notes." *(The Week magazine, September 10 / September, 2021)***

**The sand on the beach of the Bay of Laig on the Isle of Eigg, Scotland, makes musical sounds when it is walked on. Nobody knows for sure what causes the sounds. *(Barbara Seuling, in The Man in the Moon Is Upside Down in Argentina, p. 54)***

**Most experts say no animal besides the human can make music. But some contend the water-dwelling seal can repeat a tune composed by a human, so qualifies. Others cite melodious birds and singing mice. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The pistol shrimp has a claw that operates like the firing hammer on a gun – and makes such loud bang that it has shattered the glass walls of aquariums. The sound can even jam sonar devices and detonate acoustical mines. *(Ann Adams)***

**Snow that is melting as it falls on seawater makes a hissing sound. A human can’t hear it. But a dog could, if said dog listened. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When you see lightning, it has already missed you. When you hear thunder, relax; the show is over. The noise is just the audience rushing for the exit. *(Ira Wolfert, in The Living World of Nature, p. 116)***

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**Typically, a whale’s song lasts about 10 minutes. Some have been heard to sing all day, though. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Songs of whales rhyme. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 126)***

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**The spring wind plays among the different woodlands with a rich variety of sound. Every section of the woods has its own pitch, its own key. The wind in the hemlocks has a low, bass tone. As it blows through scrubby second growth, its pitch is still low, but it’s a cello now rather than a bass fiddle. The wind among the bare branches of the open woods has a far higher pitch, a soprano that can be hard to hear at all. In the bigger but still bare trees of the mature woods the wind is a strong tenor line, and where it blows among last year’s day leaves in a grove of beeches, it sounds like distant voices. *(Castle Freeman, Jr., in The Old Farmer’s Almanac)***

**St. John 1:1 – In the beginning was the creative sound, the primal tone, that contained within it every sound, symphony, harmony and melody, every pattern and structure ever to be. The Word that was with God has not ceased to be this very moment, it holds suspended within its vibratory magnificence, every atom, molecule, cell and organism. *(Ken Carey, in Abundant Living magazine)***

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