**Nature Communications**

**It’s now known that alligators, too, communicate with infrasonic sounds, those deep notes too low for the human ear. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Animal communication: Tree frog – louder calls more attractive to female; Mudpuddle frog – makes 7,000 calls in two hours; Catbird – sings for two hours at a time; Killer whale – each pod has own dialect; Sea lion – knows family members by calls; Ostrich – babies call from within eggs when ready to hatch. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Crows make about 300 different sounds to call to each other and to warn off enemies. Crows live in many parts of the world, and, like people, they have different languages in different countries. *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 136)***

**The unhatched infant ostrich is another bird that chitchats pleasantly with its folks for several days before the eggshell breaks. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A developing American white pelican chick will make loud noises from within the egg to tell its parents when it is too hot or cold. The adults then adjust the egg’s incubation accordingly. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 159)***

**Lambs recognize their mothers by their bleats. Sheep are actually great communicators that make a variety of sounds that the rest of the flock understands. A sheep separated from its flock for a year or more will be recognized once it is returned to the group. It’s hard to sneak up on a sheep, as they have a 270-degree radius of view. *(Tidbits)***

**As scientists unlock the secrets of trees, they uncover surprising facts. In the early 1980s David Rhoades, a chemical ecologist at the University of Washington, Seattle, discovered that trees send unseen signals to each other. When willows are attacked by webworms and tent caterpillars, they give off a chemical that alerts nearby willows. The neighboring trees respond by pumping more tannin into their leaves, making them more difficult for the insects to digest. Researchers have found similar responses in sugar maples, birches and other trees. To their surprise, the scientists found evidence that trees respond differently to different attackers – trees will not react if leaves are nipped with sterilized scissors, for example, but do release tannin if the attacker is an insect. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader’s Digest)***

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