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### **The perception of sound degradation**

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Birds use acoustic signals to advertise their territory. It is adaptive for a receiver of such a territorial signal to be able to accurately judge the distance of a sender (e.g., for deciding whether it intruded into the receiver's own territory). The salience of various cues available to the receiver, such as overall amplitude or changes in the spectral and temporal characteristics of the signal, will be discussed in view of results from psychoacoustical studies in birds. Furthermore, behavioural field studies will be reviewed that evaluate the accuracy of distance perception on the basis of acoustic cues.