

Frequently Asked Questions for Bioacoustics-L

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1. How do I get further information about bioacoustics?

See the web page for the "Animal Bioacoustics" section of the Acoustical Society of America:

<http://www.bioacoustics.de>

It contains web pages about these and other subjects:

- * what bioacoustics is
 - * hardware and software for bioacoustics
 - * journals
 - * conferences
 - * centers for bioacoustics research
 - * sound libraries
 - * newsgroups
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2. How do I subscribe/change address/unsubscribe?

To subscribe to Bioacoustics-L, send mail to listproc@cornell.edu with the message contents of

JOIN Bioacoustics-L "your real name"

and you'll be automatically included in the list of subscribers. Be sure to use your real name, rather than your email address, like this:

JOIN Bioacoustics-L "Heinz Sielmann"

The mailing-list software automatically gets your email address from the header of your message. The subject line is ignored. Note that the software tries to interpret EVERY line of the message body as a command, so any "signature" text appended by your mailer will confuse it.

When you first subscribe, you will receive a list password, which is a string of digits. Save this password, and use it to change your email address, like this:

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SET Bioacoustics-L ADDRESS <password> <new email address>
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To stop getting messages from the list, send a message like this:

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LEAVE Bioacoustics-L
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3. How do I send messages to Bioacoustics-L?

To send mail to everyone on the list, address your message to Bioacoustics-L@cornell.edu.

Please put your full name and email address somewhere inside each message you post. The various mail-forwarding programs between you and the readers of Bioacoustics-L often change or remove lines in the message header, making it impossible for readers to tell who sent a message. If you put text in the body of the message identifying yourself and saying how to contact you, this won't be a problem. Nearly all mail-sending programs have some facility for defining a "signature" file that gets appended to every outgoing message.

NOTE! Please be careful when replying to a message received from the list. Your mail program may automatically reply to Bioacoustics-L@cornell.edu, making your message go out to everyone on the list. It's quite easy to make the mistake of replying to a message and thinking you're mailing only to the sender of the message, when in actuality you're sending to the entire list. Before sending your message, please double check the "To:" line.

For administrative messages, such as for unsubscribing, see question 2 above.

4. What are appropriate postings for Bioacoustics-L?

First, please observe network etiquette. A good introduction to it is found at

<http://www.dtcc.edu/cs/rfc1855.html#3>

When posting, please take care to ensure that your message is relevant. Before you post, consider these things:

- Are my words important and interesting enough to take up 900+ people's time?
- Would private email work about as well?
- Can I find the answer to my question reasonably quickly by other means, such as a literature search? Please do not use the list merely because you don't have a convenient library, or because you haven't checked it yet.
- Does my message contribute something either scientifically or technically?
- If it's scientific, does it talk about a hypothesis that could be disproven? Personal observations are sometimes acceptable, but only if they relate to a disprovable hypothesis.
- If it's technical, is it about something, such as field or lab equipment, that will be interesting to a significant fraction of the list readers?
- Is it polite? Especially, do not answer rudeness with more rudeness.
- Is the subject line informative?
- Is it about acoustics? In large part, messages about animal feelings and about human feelings around animals belong elsewhere.

The first item in this list is the most important. Before you post, please CONSIDER CAREFULLY what you are saying, and think about whether you are adding enough to the discussion to be worth that many people's time. Imagine you are standing in front of an audience of 900 people, and think again about whether you need to post your message.

Please do NOT post messages about whether someone else's message was appropriate for the list, polite, correctly punctuated, etc. Such comments are almost never interesting to other people on the list, and should be sent by private email. If you think that someone else is getting away with poor behavior, send a message to the list manager (owner-bioacoustics-l@cornell.edu), who will probably already have reminded the offending person about reasonable Internet behavior.

5. Can I post messages in Spanish/Swahili/Sanskrit/...?

The preferred language of Bioacoustics-L is English. Postings in other languages are acceptable, but if at all possible, please provide an English translation of your message. To keep the number of messages low, please include the translation in the original posting.

If you see a posting that lacks an English version and wish to contribute a translation, please send it to the list manager (owner-bioacoustics-L@cornell.edu), who will make sure that only one translation gets posted.

6. Is there a way to see archived messages?

Messages that have been sent to Bioacoustics-L are archived at

<http://www.mail-archive.com/bioacoustics-l%40cornell.edu/maillist.html>

This archive has been in use since Feb. 2002. Messages older than that are unfortunately not available.

7. What are appropriate topics for the list?

[from the welcome message]

The Bioacoustics-L mailing list is for discussion of any subjects related to the scientific study of sound in the natural world, including animal communication, sonar, acoustic behavior, sound production, hearing physiology and auditory processes, signal processing for bioacoustics, the impact of noise on animals, acoustic tracking, and any other topics that may come up.

Discussion of experimental methods and equipment, queries for information, announcements of results, and raising of public policy questions answerable by science are all welcome.

Advertising is not acceptable on the list. The only type of announcement that should appear is if a major new product is introduced. Then, a one- or two-line notice, with a pointer to further information (web page or email address), is acceptable. Minor additions to existing product lines or changes to web pages do not warrant a new message.

Announcements of job openings are welcome, but postings for jobs wanted are not.

8. How do I get further information about the list?

To find out more things you can do with mailing lists, such as telling the list processor to send daily digests instead of immediately forwarding every message as it comes in, point your WWW browser at the ListProc Guide:

<http://www.cren.net/listproc/>

If you have any questions about Bioacoustics-L, contact the list manager (currently Holger Klinck) by sending email to owner-bioacoustics-L@cornell.edu.

If you have any questions about the Cornell list server, contact the list server manager at listmgr@cornell.edu.

9. How do I help avoid electronic junk mail?

Junk email is a growing problem, and mailing lists can sometimes contribute to it. Some companies sell lists of email addresses for junk mailings. Though it is against Cornell's rules (and possibly the law), it's possible for these companies to get addresses from the Bioacoustics-L subscribers list. By sending the command

```
review bioacoustics-l
```

to listproc@cornell.edu, these companies could get a list of current subscribers.

Starting September 1996, the subscribers list is available only to those currently on the list. This restriction puts at least one roadblock up for email-address collectors. The option also exists to make the subscribers list completely hidden, so that not even subscribers can see it, but hopefully that option won't be needed.

If you don't want to appear on the subscribers list at all, you can send the command

```
set bioacoustics-l conceal yes
```

to listproc@cornell.edu; then no one will see your email address. (Except me, the list manager, and I'm not about to send the subscribers list out to anyone.)

To undo this command, and reset it to the default state, do

```
set bioacoustics-l conceal no
```

10. Why did my Bioacoustics-L subscription stop?

Your subscription can get cancelled if your email is undeliverable, which happens (among other times) when your email in-box fills up. Mailers send 3-5 messages back to me, the list owner, for every undeliverable message. Because of the level of traffic on Bioacoustics-L and the number of subscribers, I get quite a lot of these messages. To avoid getting flooded with messages, I have to delete undeliverable addresses quickly, typically a day or two after messages start to bounce.

So if you find no Bioacoustics-L messages for a few days or a week, try subscribing to the list again. See question 1, above, for how to do it.

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