

Notes on Untitled Birdsong Project

This is a 1-hour exhibit featuring AI-generated bird calls situated in nature.

AI bird songs generated via [WaveGAN](#), trained using publicly-sourced data from [xeno-canto.org](#), with gratitude for support from the Yale CCAM (Justin Berry, Dana Karwas, Doug Duhaime, and many more.)

1. “Late April, early May - **the first three weeks of May are really the most exciting time of year for bird migration in Connecticut**,” said Patrick Comins, Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society. “Not only are there numbers and a variety of birds, they're also in their top breeding plumage and singing.” ([NBC Connecticut](#))
2. “...we show a **net loss of 2.9 billion breeding birds** across the continental avifauna **since 1970**.... Net loss of abundance occurred across all major breeding biomes except wetlands.” (Rosenberg et. al., [Decline of the North American Avifauna](#), *Science*, October 4th, 2019)
3. “I don’t understand **why chicken, yes, and these birds, no**,” he said. “Chickens are birds, too.” ([On the Menu at a Lunch in Italy: Protected Songbirds](#), The New York Times, April 20, 2021)
4. “Livestock accounts for more biomass than all humans on earth; more than 50% greater than humans. And livestock accounts for much more than all wildlife: Wild mammals and birds collectively account for only 0.38% — **livestock therefore outweighs wild mammals and birds by a factor of ten**.” (Hannah Ritchie, [Our World in Data](#))
5. “To suppose that animals first entered the human imagination as meat or leather or horn is to project a 19th century attitude backwards across the millennia. Animals first entered the imagination as messengers and promises. ...In the [present] ideology, **animals are always the observed**. The fact that they can observe us has lost all significance. They are the objects of our ever-extending knowledge. What we know about them is an index of our power, and thus an index of what separates us from them. **The more we know, the further away they are**.” (*Why Look at Animals*, John Berger)