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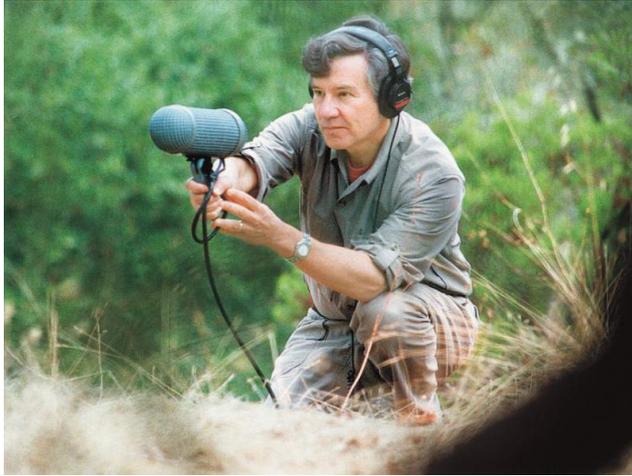


PLANET
in
FOCUS

An Educational Guide to:

NATURE'S ORCHESTRA

Sounds of Our Changing Planet



“Every soundscape we hear in a wild habitat generates its own unique signature” - Bernie Krause

Check Out:

The Center for Global Soundscapes
www.centerforglobalsoundscapes.org

Sounds in Nature

Sound is a dynamic and ever-present component of all landscapes¹. The sounds found in natural ecosystems have been linked to the health and environmental quality of those ecosystems since the publication of Rachel Carson's pioneering work *Silent Spring* in 1962¹.

What is a Soundscape?

A “soundscape” is made up of all the sounds found in a particular environment².

Those sounds are divided into **three** major categories¹:

- Biophany** - sounds made by living things
- Geophany** - nonbiological sounds made by things like wind, rain and thunder
- Anthrophony** - sounds caused by humans

What is Soundscape Ecology?

Soundscape ecology can be described as the combination of all sounds (including the biophany, geophany and anthrophony) made within a specified landscape that together create sound patterns unique to the time and place¹.

What Can We Learn From Soundscape Ecology?

The structure of a landscape, is intricately connected to the soundscape it produces³. That soundscape can help indicate not only the types of species present and their population sizes, but can also illustrate the impacts of human-produced sounds on the ecosystem³. The monitoring of a specific soundscape over time can indicate ecosystem changes such as biodiversity loss, the introduction of new and invasive species, as well as changes in animal behaviours³.

References:

1. Pijanowski, B. C., & Farina, A. (2011). Introduction to the special issue on soundscape ecology. *Landscape Ecology*, 26(9), 1209-1211
2. Soundscape Ecology at NC State. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://cmast.ncsu.edu/soundscapes/>
3. Farina, A., & Pieretti, N. (2012). The soundscape ecology: A new frontier of landscape research and its application to islands and coastal systems. *Journal of Marine and Island Cultures*, 1(1), 21-26.