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VOCAL REPERTOIRE OF WOOLLY MONKEYS (*LAGOTHRIX POEPPIGII*) IN THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON.

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Many gregarious animals living in closed forest environments, such as primates, rely on vocal communication to regulate between and within group spacing, maintain group cohesion and coordinate group activity. Although woolly monkeys are highly vocal in the wild, little is known about their vocal behavior, and there are no available acoustic spectral analyses of their vocal repertoire. The aim of this study was to provide a quantitative acoustic description of the vocalizations of woolly monkeys and explore the behavioral contexts associated with specific vocalizations. We collected data over a 32 day period on activity patterns, habitat use, and ranging behavior of two groups of woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix poeppigii*) in the Ecuadorian Amazon, including ~45 hours of recordings of vocal activity. Our results indicate that most vocalizations in the woolly monkey repertoire are characterized by rapid frequency modulation. It is possible to distinguish several call types, such as eeolks, chirrups, long distance trills and alarm barks, although intergradations may occur between certain call types. Long distance trills were associated with intergroup encounters and when individuals were away from the group, and broadband alarm barks were associated with the presence of large birds. Short distance vocalizations, such as eeolks and chirrups, were ubiquitous, showing no clear relationship with context, although vocalizations tended to occur more frequently when individuals were foraging or moving, and less so when resting. This study was funded by the N.Y. Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the NSF.

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