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CHANGES IN DUSKY TITI MONKEY (*CALLICEBUS CUPREUS DISCOLOR*) DAWN CHORUSES WITH HUNTING PRESSURE FROM HUMAN HUNTERS.

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Human activity can affect wild animal behavior. As available habitat is reduced through deforestations or conversion to croplands, studies of disturbed populations will become increasingly relevant and prevalent, and understanding how human disturbances change primate behavior will become more important. This study aimed to examine the effects of human hunting on the calling behavior of dusky titi monkeys (*Callicebus cupreus discolor*) in Yasuni National Park, Ecuador. Multiple visits were conducted to six groups at a site with high hunting pressure, and six groups 30km away at a site with low hunting pressure. As *Callicebus* dawn choruses travel up to 500m, hunters can use these loud calls to locate and hunt specific groups. Thus it was hypothesized that to avoid this risk, dusky titi monkeys at the hunted site would call for less time, earlier and on fewer mornings, with greater call synchrony between neighboring groups. Differences in calling behavior were found between the two sites, consistent with the theory that dusky titi monkeys were changing their behavior to avoid predation by humans. Furthermore, the lowest known calling rate for *Callicebus* was found at the hunted site. This study highlights two areas; firstly, the effect humans can have on primate social behaviors, and secondly the potential problems of assuming heterogeneity in behavior, even within a single population.

Keywords: *Callicebus*, hunting, dawn chorus