

## Phase 2 - Open Call Instructions

Thank you so very much for participating in this project and for all your great work during Phase 1. Here are step-by-step instructions and links to use throughout this phase.

### *Information & Cautions*

In this project, we are investigating how birds might respond to meeting with “friends.” We have finished **Phase 1** where we observed their progress through “meet-and-greet” sessions associated with ringing a bell. Now in **Phase 2**, we will see if the birds select to “call their friends” when given agency to do so themselves.

For the study, we don’t want to force the bird to do anything! Make sure to always be aware of your bird body language to be able to slow down, or stop the video call any time your bird becomes uncomfortable.

*Some behaviors to be aware of:* It is important that the birds are primarily comfortable throughout this process. While birds are often neophobic (nervous about new things), there are particular behaviors that may trigger more immediate responses.

- Behavior that is unsafe for caregivers
- Lunging at the bird on the screen
- Extreme fear reactions (i.e., quick movement/flight away from tablet and unwillingness to return)

If any of those arise, contact us at [parrotstudy@media.mit.edu](mailto:parrotstudy@media.mit.edu) and we will guide you through next steps!

### *Tablet settings:*

- Luminosity: Please set the tablet luminosity at 75% and keep them consistent throughout the project.
- Audio: 60% volume unless we instruct otherwise.
- Messenger: We will be using the Messenger app for the calls

### *Human behavior during parrot-parrot sessions:*

- Caregivers silent except:
  - for instructions to other caregiver to ensure their bird is visible on the screen
  - for some intermittent encouragement: rare and short (quiet) comments/sentences toward your own bird if needed such as “you see that?”, “you’re doing great”, “what a good friend you are”

- **Try to avoid talking to other caregiver during the call, other than to exchange important information**
- Remember to record all video sessions (start recording by saying your bird name, date and time) you all did such a great job during Phase 1 with this! Make sure to continue during Phase 2
- No treats during this phase! If you have any questions or are encountering a specific situation contact us and we will work through it together
- Please make sure to always be present and observing when your bird is having a call. Your bird may also prefer reassurance and your close presence during the interactions, and that is ok.
- During this phase, make sure to keep the bird device on a stand/attachment rather than holding it yourself

### ***Interaction Space Setup***

- The bird should be able to approach and withdraw so they can move in ways that are comfortable to them.
- Consider placing an item in proximity which the bird can hide behind
- It's ok if they want to sit on you, no need to force them onto a perch

### ***Recording Intro***

- Right after pressing the recording button, please state your name, the bird's name, the date, the time, who they are going to video call with, and which bird triggered the call at the beginning of each recording

### **Baseline Skills**

- All birds need to have the same baseline skill and comfort levels
  - Touching a dot on the tablet screen
  - Displaying comfort behavior during calls
- Some groups will begin soon Monday July 18th 2022, and some will begin Wednesday July 20th 2022
- If you have skill/comfort homework - that needs to be done in order to join Phase 2

## ***Big Picture***

- Each week, schedules are shared on your messenger groups for each bird availability
  - You should aim to have the same window so that most of your bird calls will be successful
  - You can also ping in the group that your bird is available each day when you are open
- During your call windows, place the bell in the bird's area
- If your bird rings the bell, they get to select a friend on their tablet and call
- If someone wants to call your bird, they get to say hello and receive a call
- **Bird comfort is paramount!** Some birds fatigued on longer calls or when forced to interact.

## ***Treats***

**No treats at all** during this phase! Not for ringing a bell, selecting, or during calls . As they have already learned how to signal a video call, instead here we are asking if they like to call each other so we are not offering treats.

## ***Max Number of calls***

Two calls with each friend per day maximum

- For example, two calls to Alley and two calls to Patrick

Possible incoming four calls/scheduled day maximum

- For example, your two friends both call twice (two from Alley and two from Patrick)

# “Open Call” Script

## If your bird rings its bell

- Go to your bird
- Start video recording
- State **date, time, name of your bird**
- Ask “Do you want to call your friend? Which friend do you want to call? Let’s see if they are available!”
- Present them with the two photos on the “call device” and ask them to choose
  - You have two photos, switch these around each time so that your bird does not learn a side bias (e.g., always right)
- If your bird chooses a friend, call the friend
  - If friend answers, stay in the call for up to 5 min **as long as your bird is comfy**
  - If friend doesn’t answer
    - The first time say “Looks like <insert bird friend name> is not available, do you want to look at his/her photo together” “we can try again later”
    - If your bird requests another call but you know the friend is not available then point to the second friend and offer them to touch to ring the other friend - see if they touch that picture.
    - If they do not choose to ring the second friend option, say, “Aww, you don’t want to call <second friend name>? That’s ok! <First friend still isn’t available so let’s take a little break!” Give them a break from the bell for 10 minutes (*we want to make sure they are associating the bell ring with calling a friend and not with interacting with you*)
  - If they rang a bell but don’t choose a friend give them a break from the bell for 10 minutes (*we want to make sure they are associating the bell ring with calling a friend and not with interacting with you*)

## If you get a call from another bird

- If you are not available
  - Text the other bird caregiver that you can’t take the call and give update about your next availabilities
- If you are available
  - Go to your bird
  - Start video recording
  - State **date, time, name of your bird**
  - Say “we are getting a call from <insert bird friend name>”
  - Answer the call (call device should be on stand)

- Make sure the birds can see each other by adjusting angle/moving the screen back or giving recommendations to the other caregiver
- Monitor your bird's behavior for any sign of stress, comfort or disengagement
- End call after max 5 min

### **Once you end the call**

- End recording
- Send the video at your bird link at [this page \(rebeccakleinberger.com/parrotstudy/videouploads/\)](https://rebeccakleinberger.com/parrotstudy/videouploads/)
- Fill up the [post study diary \(https://tinyurl.com/parrotdiary\)](https://tinyurl.com/parrotdiary)
- If your bird has already made their two calls
  - Say “**We called a lot of friends today, let's take a break for a bit**” and remove the bell
- If not, let the bell stay in the enclosure and go back to your activities.