

Biology

Jackass penguin call shares traits of human speech, scientists say

Researchers analysed 590 recordings taken in Italian zoos of birds' distinctive sound

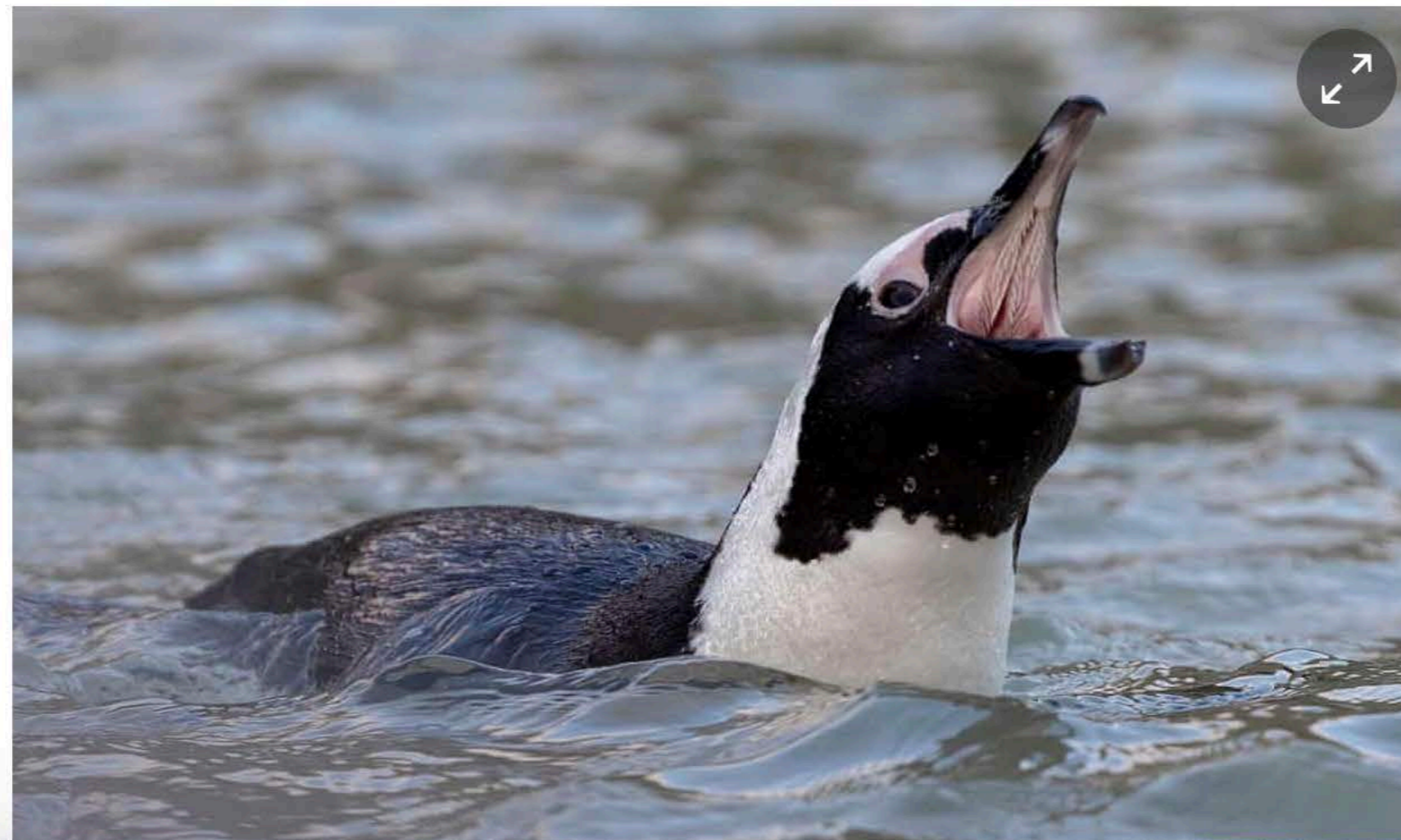
Nicola Davis

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Wed 5 Feb 2020 00.01 GMT



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Pithy penguins share our love of small talk

Tom Whipple, Science Editor

Wednesday February 05 2020, 9.00am
GMT, The Times



The language of African penguins follows the same rules as human speech, researchers found
JEWEL SAMAD/GETTY IMAGES

The African penguin is not one of nature's great conversationalists. Its typical gambits on the beach translate as, "Hello", "Get away from me", and: "Look at how big I am. Fancy mating?"

Penguins have adapted same speech patterns as humans, study finds

By Sarah Knapton, SCIENCE EDITOR

5 February 2020 • 12:01am

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Penguins use small talk to speak to each other like humans do

Researchers at the University of Lyon/Saint-Etienne found that the endangered African penguin follow the same core principles of human linguistics when they speak

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By **Nina Massey** & **Milo Boyd**
07:58, 5 FEB 2020

NEWS



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Call of the wild? African penguins share some linguistic patterns with humans.

Researchers found that, as outlined in Zipf's law of abbreviation, vocal sounds that penguins use the most tend to be shorter.



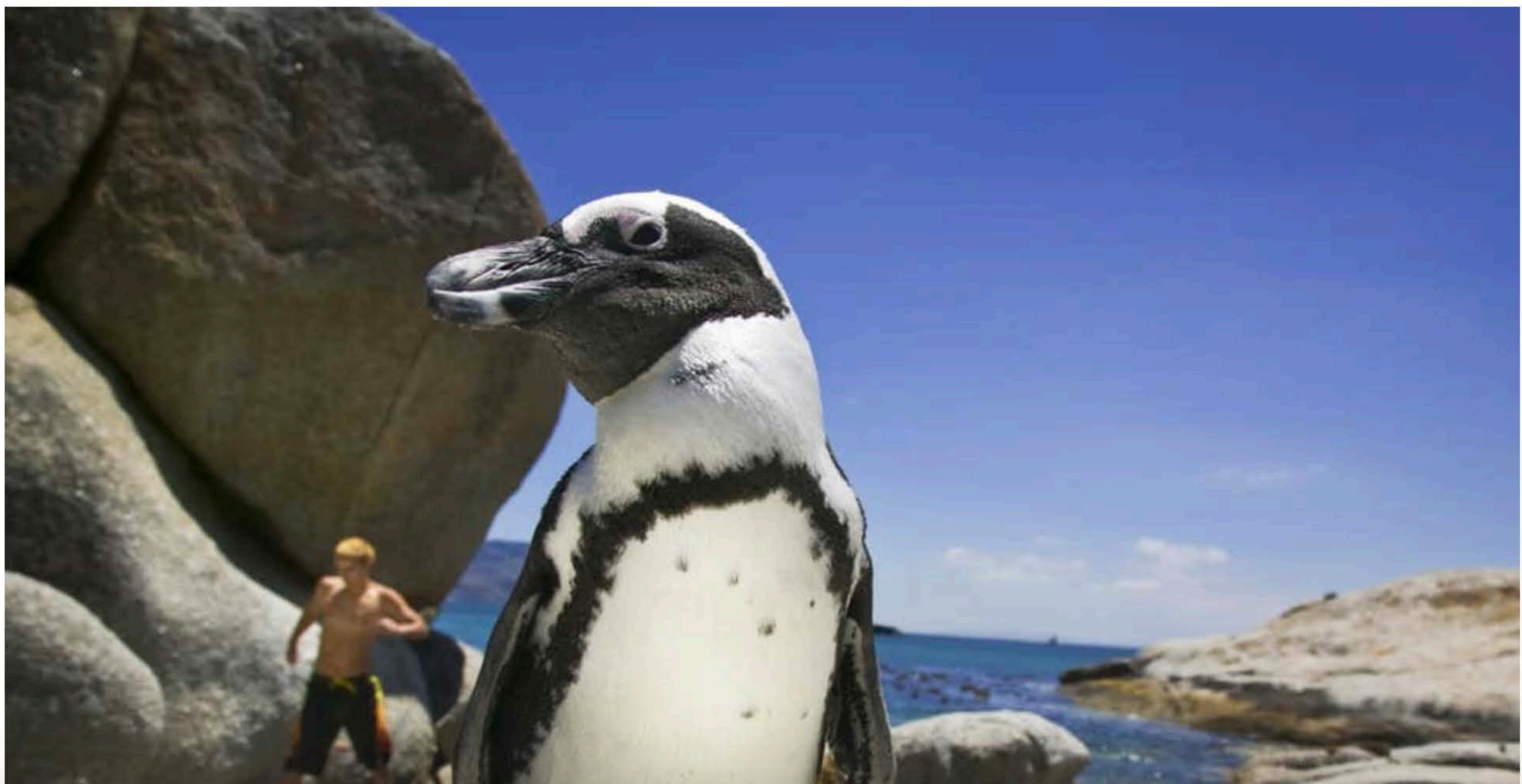
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The flightless birds are known for exhibiting a number of traits shared with humans – including monogamous relationships, same sex partnerships and, according to some studies, prostitution

Wain language obeys same rules as human speech, researchers say

Experts believe they have found the 'first compelling evidence' for conformity to linguistic laws in non-primate species

Vincent Wood | @wood_vincent | 1 day ago |





Penguins love short words like humans, study finds

Researchers analysed 590 "display songs" and found they followed the same laws as human speech.

🕒 Wednesday 5 February 2020 10:58, UK





Penguin speech follows human language rules
© Getty Images

Penguin speech follows human language rules

Sounds more frequently used by penguins are briefer, and longer vocalisations are composed of briefer syllables, researchers say.

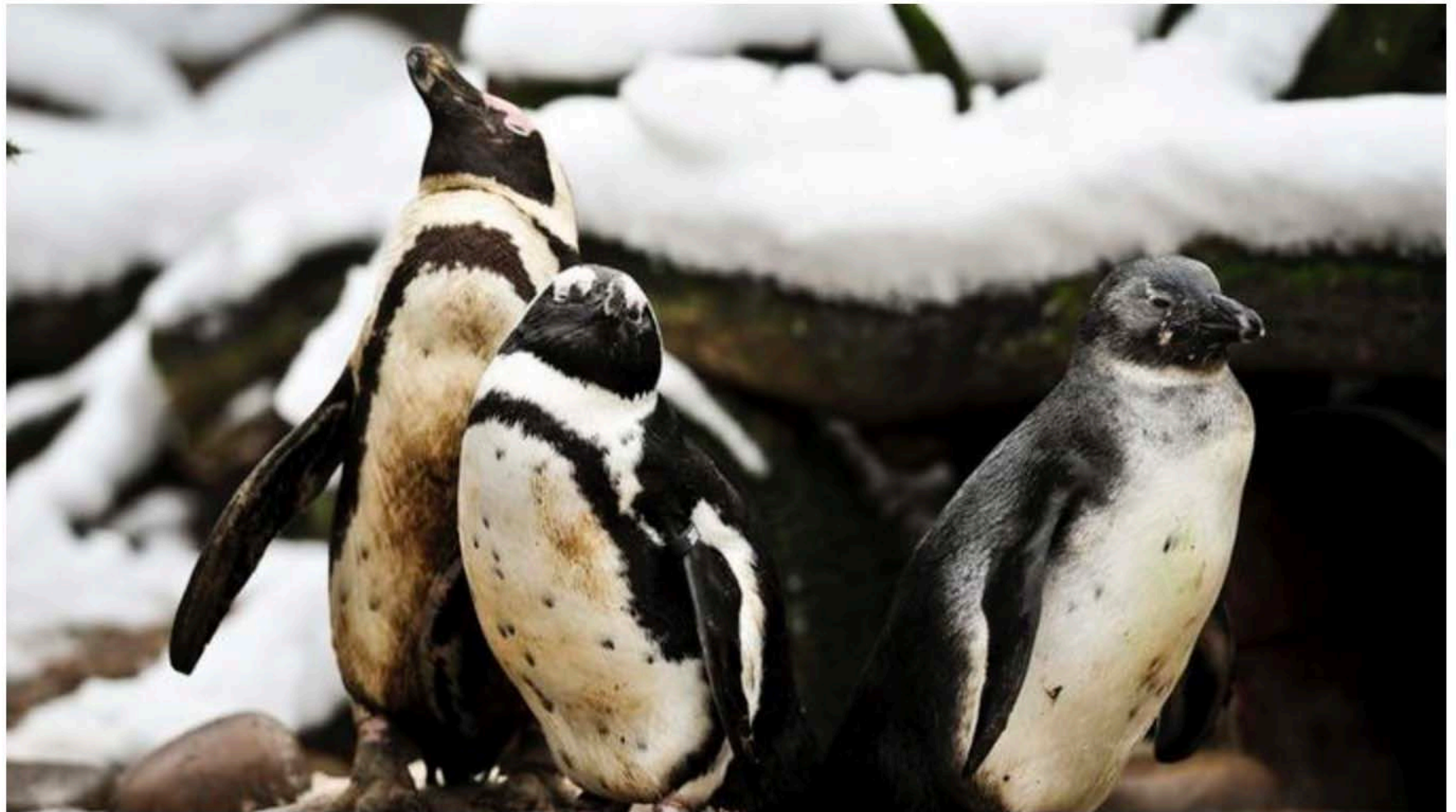
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ITV REPORT

5 February 2020 at 12:02am

Penguins follow same linguistic patterns as humans, study finds



Penguins follow the same linguistic patterns as humans, a new study has claimed

Photo: Ben Birchall/PA

Penguin vocal patterns follow the same principles as human linguistics, new research suggests.

The animals follow two main laws – that more frequently used words are briefer (Zipf's law of brevity), and longer words are composed of extra but briefer syllables (Menzerath-Altmann

law)

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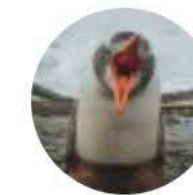
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"These songs are perhaps a little bit more similar to language than we originally thought"

Stuart Semple, professor of evolutionary anthropology [@RoehamptonUni](#) explains how new research suggests penguin vocal patterns follow the same principles as human language.

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05 feb 2020

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Intervista a Livio Favaro, ricercatore UniTo che ha condotto una ricerca raccogliendo 590 vocalizzazioni provenienti da 28 esemplari adulti di pinguini africani

Uno studio pubblicato su *Biology Letters*, rivista scientifica della *Royal Society*, dal titolo "Do penguins vocals

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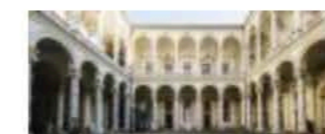
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Jackass penguins have a jackass language not so different from English

By [Brandon Specktor](#) - Senior Writer 14 hours ago

The braying songs of African "jackass" penguins follow two extremely common rules of human language.



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Penguin Calls Conform to Human Linguistic Laws

Bob Yirka, Phys.org February 6, 2020



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Penguins talk to each other like humans do – according to scientists





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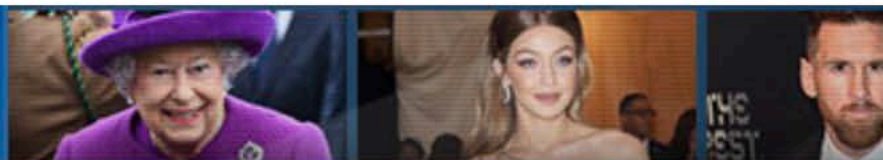
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Penguins talk to each other like humans do – according to scientists





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P-p-p-pardon? Penguins communicate with each other like humans and use shortened 'words' unless they are trying to impress a mate

- Penguins use short noises to represent frequently used 'words' during songs
- Longer noises last more than a second and are less frequently used by the birds
- Experts say this is a similar linguistic system to that of humans and chimps
- It is the first documented example of the two methods in a non-primate animal

By [JOE PINKSTONE FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 00:01 GMT, 5 February 2020 | **UPDATED:** 03:11 GMT, 5 February 2020

Penguins' speech patterns are similar to humans, a new study finds



By **Katie Hunt**, CNN

🕒 Updated 1109 GMT (1909 HKT) February 5, 2020



The African penguin is native to the coasts of South African and Namibia.

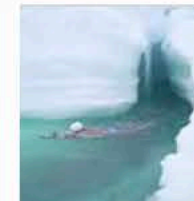
(CNN) — In most human languages, the most frequently used words are short. Think "the," and "of " and "a."

It turns out the same thing goes for penguins too.

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Penguins' speech patterns are similar to humans, a new study finds



In most human languages, the most frequently used words are short. Think “the,” and, “of ” and “a.”

It turns out the same thing goes for penguins too.

A team of researchers based in Italy have found “compelling evidence” that African penguins use the same speech patterns as we do — the first time this has been found in an animal other than a primate.

The team recorded 590 breeding calls known as “ecstatic display songs.” They were sung by single birds during the mating season, from 28 adult African penguins in three different colonies in Italian zoos.

The songs’ sounds are similar to the bray of a donkey, according to the paper which published Tuesday, and are responsible for the flightless birds’ less-than-flattering nickname:

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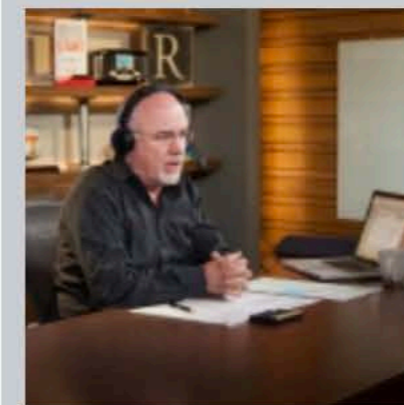
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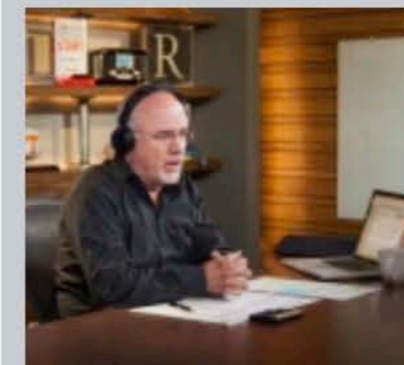
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