

INCREASED VISITATION TO UNOCCUPIED FEEDERS CAN RELIABLY INDICATE A DECREASE IN SOCIAL RANK IN CAPTIVE MONK PARAKEETS

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Research Focus

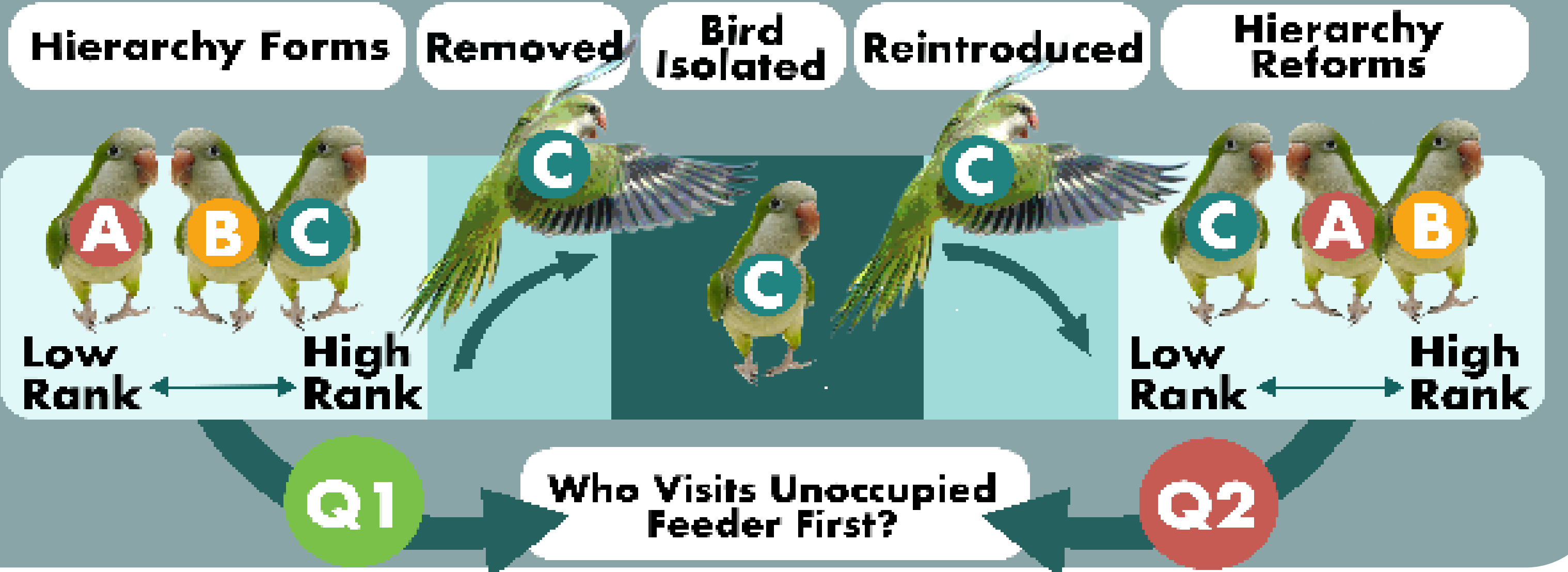
Rank Awareness
affects individual behavior

Analyzing behavior associated with social hierarchy can give us insight into an individual's awareness of its own rank

Foraging
is affected by rank

Social Environment
reinforces rank

Methods



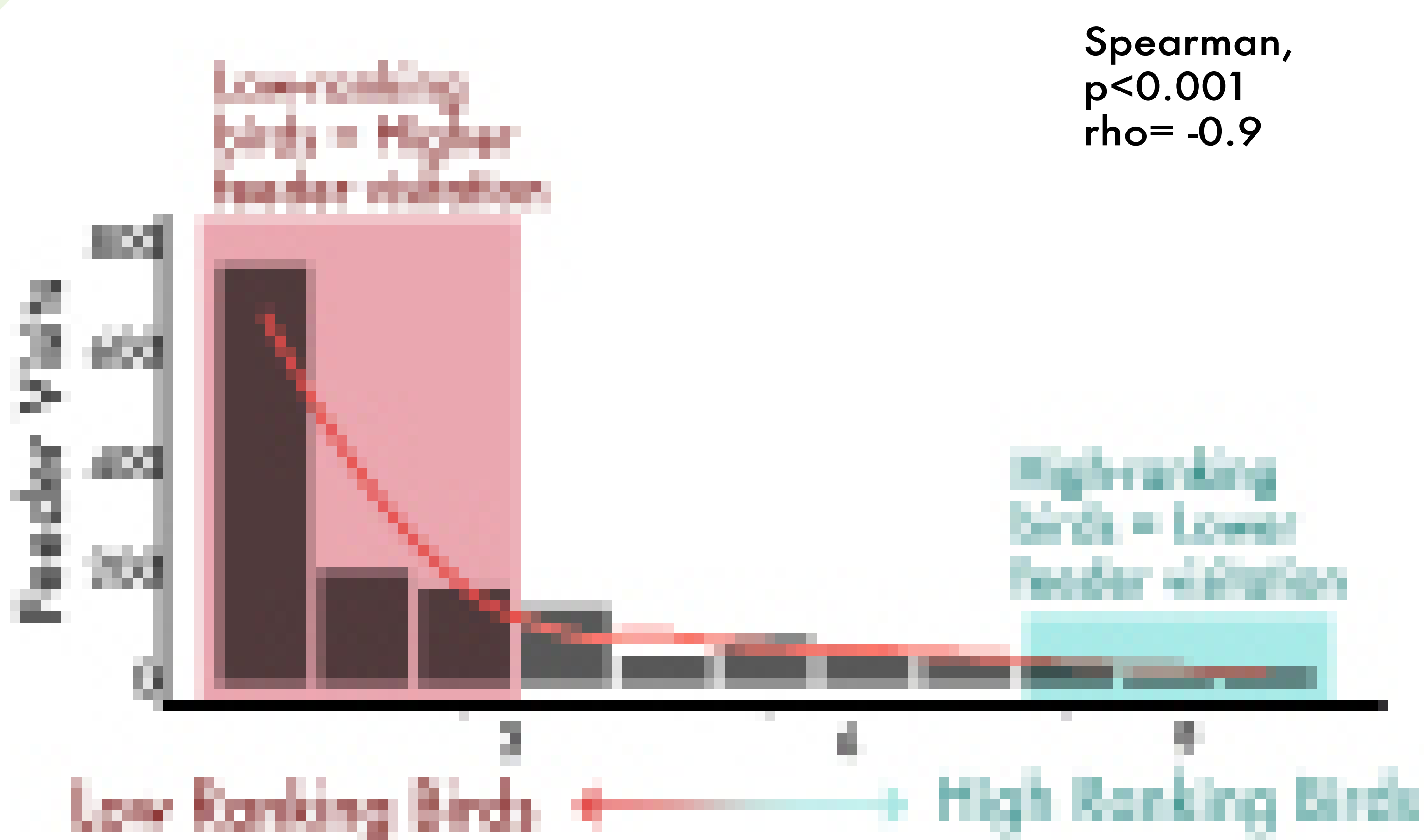
Does rank influence foraging behavior in monk parakeets?

Certain ranks should be first to approach the feeder more frequently than others.

Do birds change their foraging behavior when their rank changes?

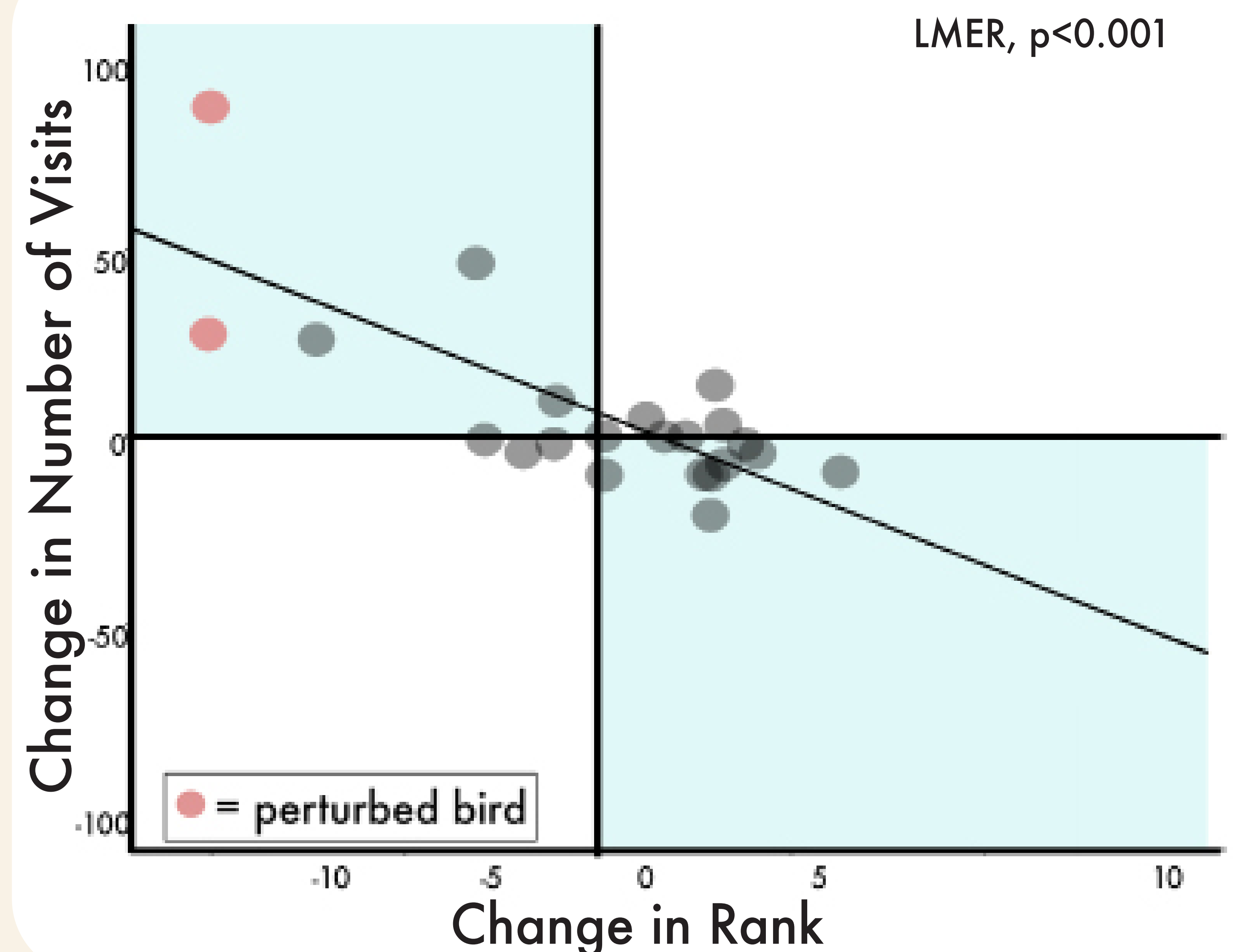
An individual's number of feeder visits should increase following a fall in rank.

Rank influences foraging behavior



Lower ranked birds approach unoccupied feeders significantly more frequently than higher ranked birds.

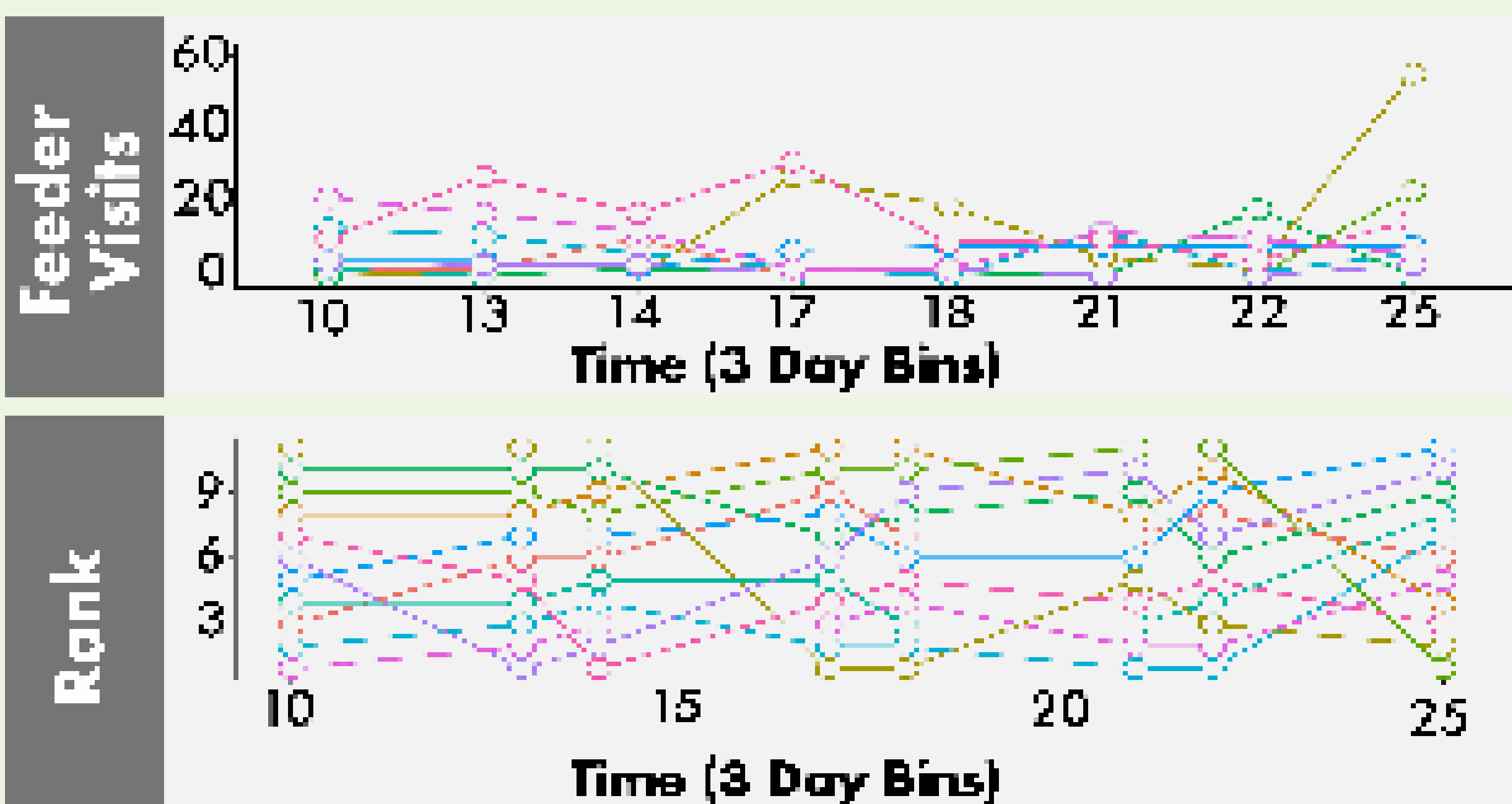
When a bird's rank changes, its foraging behavior also changes



After a large fall in rank, previously top-ranked birds visit the unoccupied feeder more frequently than before their loss of rank.

These individuals increased feeder visitation significantly more than those who experienced a smaller fall in rank.

Rank and foraging behavior must both change in order to compare them



Individuals change in both rank and foraging behavior over time.

Implications

Researchers may be able to use foraging behavior to quickly and easily gain information about social hierarchy.