

You can come closer, but don't look at me:

Urban birds and predation assessment

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Rural birds are less exposed to humans

Every human could represent danger

Do not wait to find out!

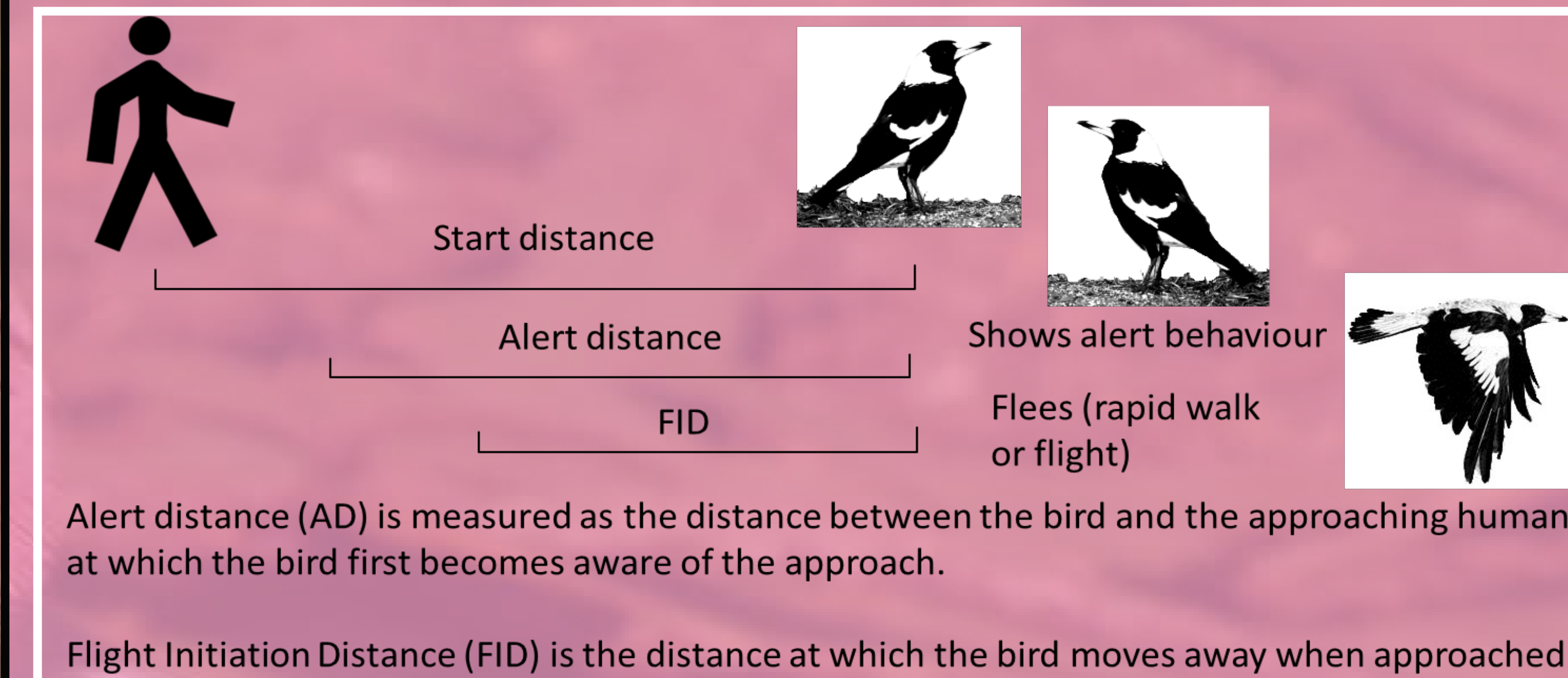
Flee always

Urban birds are literally surrounded by humans

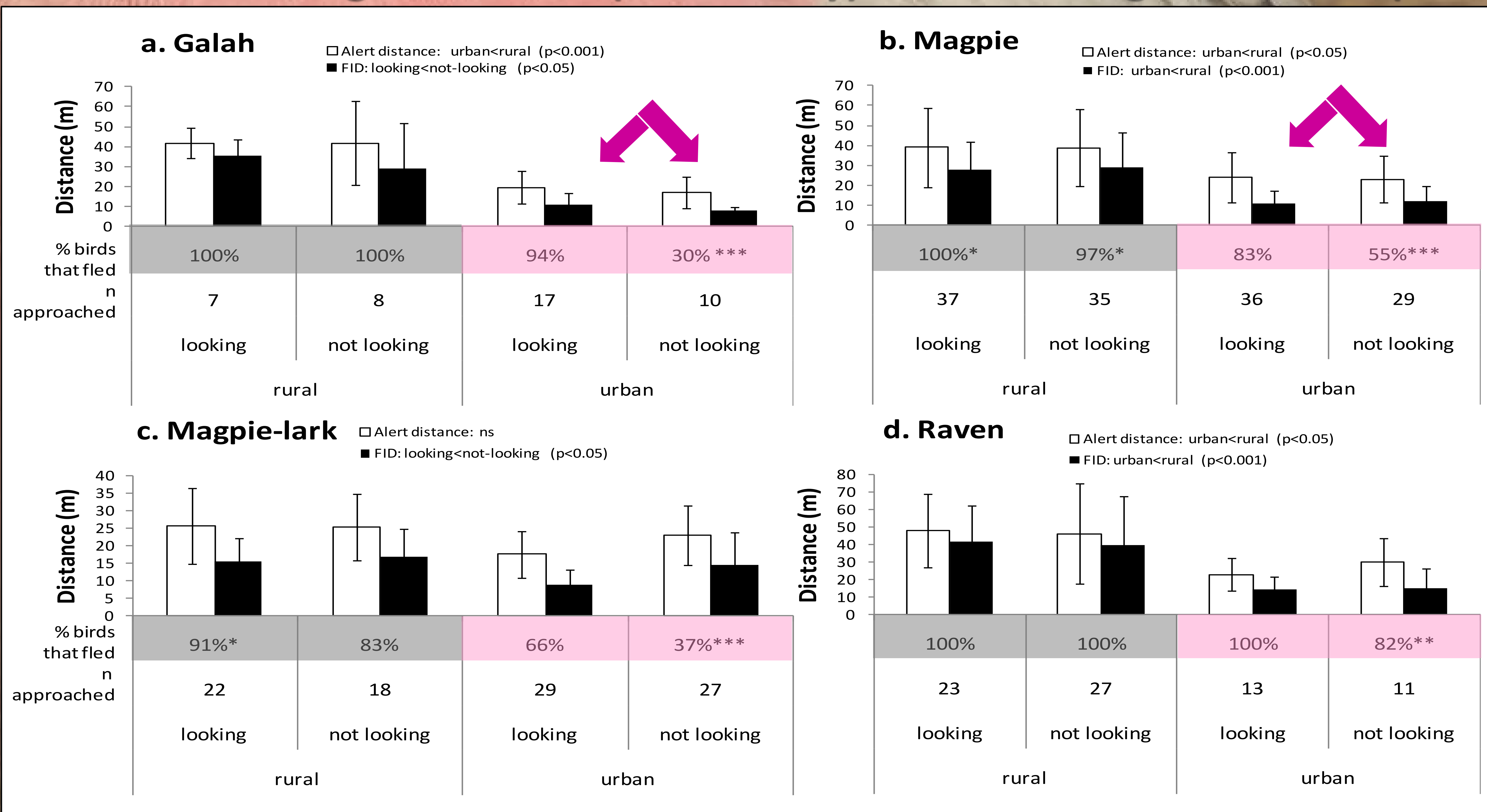
Most humans are benign

Cues may indicate
which humans are dangerous

Heightened risk resolution = responsive to
subtle cues that could indicate risk



We recorded alert distance and FID of urban and rural birds approached tangentially* by a human either: • Looking at the bird (= less risky) • Not looking at the bird (= more risky)



Rural birds (except magpie larks) always moved away

- more likely to flee and longer AD & FID, regardless of human gaze direction

Urban birds do not always move away

- less likely to move away from a person not looking at them
- more likely to move away if the person is looking at them (but see magpie larks)

Urban birds have heightened risk resolution and are attuned to subtle cues indicating risk

*a tangential approach took the person to within ~1m of the bird's position