
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

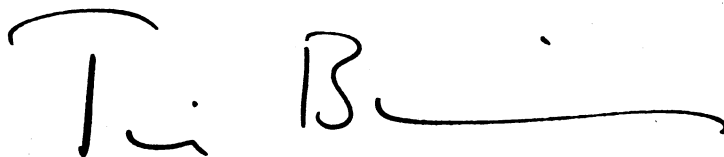
ISBE NEWSLETTER

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From the president

At our meeting in Asilomar in July/August this year I will hand over the reins to Steve Emlen. That meeting will also see other changes to the executive committee, and will also provide an opportunity for the new editors of the journal to get together with the committee. I am looking forward seeing all of them and all of you there. From what Walt Koenig and Janis Dickinson tell me, the plans for the conference are going well: I am certain we are all in for a good and stimulating time. Since this will be my final 'from the president', I would like to say how much I have enjoyed serving the Society. I am particularly grateful to those committee members and editors with whom I have worked closely, especially Patty Parker, who has done an outstanding job as secretary. I have also enjoyed working with Steve Johnson of Oxford University Press and I would like to thank him for helping with the new contract we have negotiated between us for the future of our journal, Behavioral Ecology. Finally I would like to thank the entire membership for continuing to produce the stream of new questions and new answers that keeps our subject at the forefront of science.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'T' and 'B' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Tim Birkhead

Editorial

The content of the Newsletter depends on you, dear members of our Society. I hereby would like to invite you to send me your opinions, ideas, comments, etc. on the journal, the Newsletter, or on any topic relevant to behavioural ecology.

In this issue you'll find the outcome of the elections for the ISBE Executives, as well as a new ballot (see details on page 4). The yearly report of the editors shows again the healthy state of our journal.

Please note that the next issue of the Newsletter will come out with the November/December issue of *Behavioral Ecology*, so copy that reaches me before 15 October can be included.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue, and especially to the book (journal) reviewers for their effort.

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Newsletter Editor

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Members of the Council are asked to check this listing and provide any corrections or additional information to the Newsletter editor.

Society News

Announcement

As of January 1, 1998, Dr. Ron Ydenberg is the new co-editor of Behavioral Ecology, replacing Larry Wolf. The Society would like to welcome Ron to the editorial duties.

All manuscripts from authors in the New World should be sent to Ron, at the following address:

Dr. Ron Ydenberg
Department of Biological Sciences
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby
British Columbia
Canada V5A 1S6

Election of ISBE Officers

Our recent election results are in:

The President-Elect for ISBE is Nick Davies. He will assume that office at the Asilomar meeting in August, and will become President at the 2000 meeting. Newly elected councillors are Jane Brockmann and André Dhondt. They will begin their 4-year terms at the Asilomar meeting.

Congratulations to our new officers. We were particularly proud of the strengths represented by our slate of candidates during this election, and appreciate the willingness of all to be nominated and to serve.

Attention, Membership!

After the ballots had gone out in the last newsletter for the election of ISBE officers, one of the candidates for the office of Secretary became unavailable to serve, effectively making irrelevant any votes cast for that office. Since our election process requires two candidates, we have arranged a follow-up election focused on that office alone. The following candidates have agreed to be nominated and, if elected, to serve a 4-year term beginning at the Asilomar meeting in August. We appreciate the patience of the candidates and request the attention and participation of the membership once again. The ballot and voting instructions can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Everyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to vote.

Biographical information for Candidates for Secretary, ISBE:

Marion Petrie

I started my research career in Behavioural Ecology in 1977 when I embarked on a PhD project looking at competitive and mating behaviour of moorhens. After taking time out to have 2 daughters, I started my first post-doc in 1987 working at the Open University on sexual selection in peafowl. Since that time I have mainly concentrated on the question of what benefits maintain female mating preferences. After several post-docs at the Open University and at Oxford, I am now a Senior Lecturer at the University of

Newcastle, working on variability in female mating preferences.

Scott Pitnick

I received my Ph.D. in 1992 from the Zoology Department at Arizona State University. I am currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at Syracuse University in New York. My primary research interest is reproductive strategy evolution, with a focus on sperm gigantism. My research interests include: the adaptive significance of sperm length variation, correlated reproductive and life history evolution, sexual conflict, sperm competition, sperm-female and sperm-egg compatibility, and the implications of gametic evolution for reproductive isolation.

Report from the Journal Editors (1997)

Calendar year 1997 saw significant changes in our journal and in personnel associated with editorial matters. Due to the close cooperation between the society and Oxford University Press, we were able to increase the total pages published (not including indices and announcements) by about 38% from 505 pages in 1996 to 698 pages in 1997. The change was produced primarily by shifting from 4 to 6 issues per year. The increased pages allowed us to publish 88 papers and 3 forum articles in 1997.

Other changes are to the journal itself. We moved to a single color for the cover rather than the different color for each issue. We also have moved the description of the cover photo from the title page to the information page.

Two editors announced their retirement during 1997. Larry Wolf completed his 5 year term in December and has been replaced by Ron Ydenberg of Simon Fraser University, Canada. Ron will handle all initial submissions for the New World editors. Marc Mangel will complete his tenure as editor in July, 1999. Members who wish to be considered for appointment as a North American editor should contact either the society president, Tim Birkhead, University of Sheffield, or president-elect, Steve Emlen, Cornell University. The increase in the manuscript load in the European office continued and a new editor, Innes Cuthill, was added in July, bringing the number of editors to four. Paul Schmid-Hempel announced his intention to retire due to other pressing duties and Gunilla Rosenqvist, University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, was selected as his replacement. Manuscripts from the Old World authors now should be sent to Innes.

The plan adopted by the society to replace approximately 1/3 of the editorial board at the time of each biennial meeting led to the retirement of six members and the addition of 6 new members. The editors would like to thank the retiring members (Tim Clutton-Brock, Alan Grafen, Mart Gross, Alex Kacelnik, Dave Stephens, and Sandy Vehrencamp) for their valuable service to the society and to welcome the new members (Andy

Cockburn, Nick Davies, Larry Dill, Francis Ratnieks, Marion Petrie, and Marlene Zuk).

The editors received a total of 244 new manuscripts submitted for publication during 1997, 131 in the European office and 113 in the North American office. Of these, 63 have been accepted, including 39 by the European editors and 24 by the North American editors. Our rejection rate held at about 60%, with 66% of European submissions and 56% of those received in North America rejected. As usual, the decision is still pending for a small number of manuscripts.

The editors are pleased to report that lag from acceptance to publication of a manuscript is now averaging 5-6 months. This is about the minimum time that is possible given the current manuscript backlog that is required for Oxford University Press to meet their printing schedule. This means that with timely responses by reviewers and quick attention to revisions by authors, the lag from submission to publication can be maintained significantly under one year.

The editors are committed to rapid processing of manuscripts at submission and after reviews and revisions are received. We would like to thank all the reviewers who took time from their busy schedules to help maintain the quality of the journal. A more formal acknowledgment of their service will appear soon in *Behavioral Ecology*. The editors also want to thank all the authors who have submitted manuscripts to *Behavioral Ecology* in 1997. We regret that our rejection rate must be kept as high as it is because the continued high quality of these submissions is essential to the

development of the journal. We urge all behavioral ecologists who have exciting work to report to submit their manuscripts to Behavioral Ecology.

Our president, Tim Birkhead, was instrumental in negotiating a new, five-year publishing contract with Oxford University Press. We had been operating on yearly renewals and this gives stability to the future of the journal. Tim deserves the thanks of all members of the society for the effort he put into the negotiations. We all hope that during the life of this new contract, the journal will become profitable, giving us more flexibility in our thinking about how best to meet the publication needs of prospective authors. Profitability depends on increasing both our membership and the number of institutional subscriptions. We urge members to encourage colleagues to join our society and to have their institutional libraries subscribe to Behavioral Ecology.

We think, in sum, that the journal is alive and doing very well. With the assured stability of the new contract with Oxford University Press, we expect to continue the high quality of work published and to increase the importance of the journal to workers in the area of behavioral ecology.

Respectfully,

Innes Cuthill

Marc Mangel

Paul Schmid-Hempel

Larry Wolf

Donated Subscription Programme

Please help colleagues in need. Every donation will help increase scientific contacts across the world. In a time when nationalism is again raising its ugly head, this is more important than ever. For details, see the newest issues of our journal Behavioral Ecology.

Spousal Membership

For \$5 per year spouses of full members can become members of ISBE. Spousal members receive the annual newsletter and information concerning biannual meetings, but do not receive a subscription to the journal. Please see information in any issue of Behavioral Ecology.

Conferences

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY MEETING

The Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting will be held 18-22 July 1998 at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Along with contributed talks and posters, the meetings will include symposia on 'Spiders in Behavioral Ecological Research' and invited papers on 'Proximate and Ultimate Causation of Behavior'. Plenary speakers include Sidney Gauthreaux, Jane Brockmann, and Jeff Galef. For further information contact the local host: Lee Drickamer, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901,

(618) 536-2314, Drickamer@zoology.siu.edu, or see the web site:

http://loris.cisab.indiana.edu/animal_behavior.html

FORAGING/98

An international conference on animal foraging behavior will be held 21-24 July 1998 at the University of California at Santa Cruz. This will precede the meeting of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology in nearby Monterey CA. Organizers are Dave Stephens, Marc Mangel and Don Kramer. Deadline for Abstracts and Pre-paid Registration is 15 March 1998. More information: Foraging/98, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota, 100 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108 USA.
WWW:<http://nash.cbs.umn.edu/foraging>
E-mail: foraging@nash.cbs.umn.edu

MEASURING BEHAVIOR '98

2nd International Conference on Methods and Techniques in Behavioral Research

Following the success of Measuring Behavior '96, we are pleased to announce that the 2nd International Conference on Methods and Techniques in Behavioral Research will be held at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, 18-21 August 1998. Conference host prof. dr. J.M. Koolhaas and his fellow members of the program committee are pleased to offer you an exciting scientific, technical and social program.

Measuring Behavior '98 will offer a variety of ways to gather and exchange information. The

scientific program consists of oral presentations, poster sessions, demonstrations and scientific tours. More than in 1996, the scientific program will be well-balanced between human and animal research. What makes Measuring Behavior '98 extra special are the technical training sessions, user meeting and a unique video digitization service. There will also be an exhibition of scientific books, instruments and software. Of course, a pleasant social program is included as well. And after the meeting, you can explore Groningen and surroundings on one of the post-conference excursions!

Measuring Behavior '98 will devote special attention to the integration of advanced behavioral research with physiological measurements. With "integration" we refer to the measurement of behavioral characteristics combined with in vivo (non-invasive) recording of the dynamic changes in time of physiological parameters. Exciting new developments in both the behavioral and physiological sciences make such an integration feasible. The development of techniques and generic software tools can form a bridge between disciplines, which are often unaware of techniques already available in other fields. For example, data analysis methods stemming from ethology are now being used by applied psychologists, and path analysis techniques originally designed by entomologists are equally useful for behavioral pharmacologists studying rodents. Moreover, recent developments in radiotelemetry, brain imaging, chip technology and biosensor techniques originally used by physiologists are now being used for simultaneous recording of physiological processes and behavior. To this end, we hope that Measuring Behavior '98, just as in 1996, will serve

as a common ground for crossfertilization of research disciplines.

Invited Speakers (preliminary titles)

Roger Bakeman (Georgia State University, USA). Using the Generalized Sequential Quierier (GSEQ) to facilitate analyses of sequential data.

Maria Boccia & Jane Roberts (University of North Carolina, USA). Behavior and autonomic nervous system function as assessed via heart activity: the case of hyperarousal in boys with Fragile X Syndrome.

Serge Daan (University of Groningen, The Netherlands). Data logging methods for the study of behavior and chronobiology.

Stephen Ellwood (Oxford University, UK). Remote video surveillance of wildlife behavior.

Laura Goodwin (University of Colorado, USA). Reliability of observational data: obtaining different results with different estimation techniques.

William Griffin (Arizona State University, USA). Converging disparate data strings into a single behavior state indicator: conceptual and graphical methods for intra- and intersubject data.

Jaap Harlaar (Free University Academic Hospital, Amsterdam, The Netherlands). The SYBAR motion analysis system: integrated recording and display of video, EMG and force plate data.

Judith Lauter (University of Oklahoma, USA). The "trimodal brain": integrating auditory neuroscience, brain imaging and the study of behavioral disorders.

Walter Tornatzky (Tufts University, USA). Using biotelemetry for integrated measurement of behavior and physiology in laboratory animals.

Hans Veenema & J.A.R.A.M. van Hooff (Utrecht University, The Netherlands). Age-related changes in cognitive behavior in relation to rank: using touch-screen displays in large groups of primates.

Berry Wijers (University of Groningen, The Netherlands). Using real-time neuroimaging techniques for the study of cognitive processes.

For further information, contact the Conference Secretariat, Attn: Rosan Nikkelen, P.O. Box 268, 6700 AG Wageningen, The Netherlands, Phone: +31-(0)317-497677, Fax: +31-(0)317-424496, E-mail: mb98@noldus.nl, or visit the web site: <http://www.noldus.com/events/mb98/mb98.htm>

SYMPOSIUM ON PHYSIOLOGY AND ETHOLOGY OF WILD AND ZOO ANIMALS

The Institute of Zoo Biology and Wildlife Research (IZW), in cooperation with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), organizes the 2nd Symposium on Physiology and Ethology of Wild and Zoo Animals, 7-10 October 1998, Berlin.

For further information, registration and abstract submission form please see the web page at: <http://izw.fmp-berlin.de/IZW>

or contact Prof. Ch. Pitra:
symposium@izw-berlin.de
Fax: +(49)-30-5126104
Phone: +(49)-30-5168-0

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ETHOLOGY

14th Workshop: Vertebrate Mating Systems

Erice, Sicily, Italy: 28 November- 3 December 1998. Organized by Marco Apollonio (Università di Pisa, Italy) and Marco Festa-Bianchet (Université de Sherbrooke, Canada)

Purpose of the workshop

The study of vertebrate mating systems has received growing attention in the last decade. New ideas have been proposed and are being tested, and recent approaches to this subject increasingly combine molecular and phylogenetic techniques with ecological and behavioural theories. The goal of the workshop is therefore to provide a comprehensive insight on new concepts emerging from recent research on mating systems in vertebrates.

The approach we chose was to highlight the links between demographic, environmental, genetic and morphological factors and vertebrate mating systems. This choice was motivated by an interest in exploring how mating systems are both affected and affect many aspects of the ecology of different taxonomic groups. In so doing we hope to focus on the general biological relevance of mating systems rather than on more narrow questions associated with particular species or particular mating systems. We have included in the program an examination of the relevance of mating systems for conservation biology, in order to clarify how our ability to conserve biodiversity can benefit from studies of vertebrate mating systems.

This workshop will be of interest to all behavioural ecologists, particularly those currently active in mating systems studies.

Speakers: H. Wiley (North Carolina), D. McDonald (Wyoming), P. Boag (Queen's), P. Torricelli (Venice), D. Westneat (Kentucky), J. Hogg (Craighead Institute), B. Sutherland (East Anglia), R. Alatalo (Jyväskylä), T. Halliday (The Open University), J. Höglund (Uppsala), J. Carranza (Extremadura), M. Dyson (The Open University).

For registration contact:

Prof. Danilo Mainardi, Dipartimento di Scienze Ambientali, Università di Venezia, Campo della Celestia 2737/B, Castello, 30122 Venice, Italy

The registration fee, including room and board, is US\$ 500. Partial support to students in financial need can be arranged thanks to the generosity of the sponsoring institutions (Italian Ministries of Education and of University and Scientific Research, Sicilian Regional Government, Italian National Research Council). Requests of support must be included with the letter of application and accompanied by a CV and a statement of financial need. Results will be announced by October 1, 1998, but students may request an earlier notification if that would help them with their travel plans.

Closing date for applications: September 15, 1998

More information about this Workshop and other activities of The Ettore Majorana Centre can be found at <http://www.ccsem.infn.it>

Journal Review

Evolution of Communication. Editor: Sherman Wilcox, Associate Editors: Barbara King, Luc Steels. 2 issues, ca. 300 pp. per volume. John Benjamins Publishing Co., price Hfl. 250,- (incl. postage).

The prospect of a new journal entitled *Evolution of Communication*, elicited great interest amongst us. Though our present research is restricted primarily to birds, our interests in the field of communication are broad (signal perception, vocal behaviour and conservation, female mate assessment, and communication networks). The journal's goal "to publish comparative, theoretical, and experimental studies on the origin of evolution of communication across a wide range of species" (Sherman Wilcox, editorial introduction, issue 1) presented a potential forum of research into animal communication that could include visual, auditory and chemical signals, from simple to complex forms of communication, all within a single journal. Yet, despite the void a journal of this nature could fill in the field of animal communication, we were disappointed with the initial issue of *Evolution of Communication*, and not enthusiastic that the proposed second issue will improve upon our initial impression.

Contrary to the editorial goals stated above, Issue 1 contained no experimental studies, nor did it cover a diversity of species. There were 7 articles in this issue. Two were extensive reviews: L. Steels' *Synthetic Modelling of Language Origins*, on the advances in artificial intelligence for modelling the evolution of language, and F.B.

Furrow's *The Crying Game: Do Solicitation Displays Advertise Offspring Fitness*, on the honesty of begging calls. The latter likely represents the paper of greatest interest to the members of ISBE, drawing heavily on avian begging displays and relating these to Furrow's own work on human infant cries. Two articles were extensive critiques/reviews of recently published books on the evolution of language: B.J. King and S.G. Shanker's *The Expulsion of Primates from the Garden of Language (Review of Noble and Davidson's "Human Evolution, Language and Mind")* and J.C. Gómez's *The Study of Evolution of Communication as a Meeting of Disciplines (Review of Hauser's "The Evolution of Communication")*. Two shorter book reviews, both also pertaining to human and non-human primate communication and language (A. Walker and P. Shipman's review of Gibson's *Wisdom of the Bones: In search of Human Origins* and J.H. Gill's review of Armstrong's *If a Chimpanzee Could Talk and Other Reflections on Language Acquisition*), and a conference report on a similar topic (I. Davidson's *The Evolution of Language: Assessing the Evidence from Nonhuman Primates*) conclude the issue. The focus of the first issue is heavily biased towards the evolution of language in human and non-human primates. The impression left on the reader is that communication and language are synonymous, rather than language being a highly complex form of communication. As the proposed second issue will focus solely on gestural communication in human and non-human primates, primate proto-language will embody the entire first year of the journal's history (*Evolution of Communication* is published biannually with the aim of becoming quarterly). This clear focus on the

issue of non-human primate language is likely a reflection of the intended audience of the journal. Among the disciplinary fields of the editorial and advisory board - behavioural ecology, anthropology, linguistics, psychology, artificial intelligence and artificial life, philosophy, cognitive neuroscience, and primatology - most will be primarily interested with human language or near precursors, rather than animal communication as a whole. Thus the scope of the reviews is clearly lacking any of the major advances in receiver/signaller psychology and physiology widely cited in the animal communication literature. Interestingly, in assessing Hauser's book "The Evolution of Communication", Gómez summarizes our impression of this initial issue of the journal. He comments on the "minimal presence of insect communication, the almost total absence of studies about marine mammals, and the excessive protagonism given to primates including humans" (p. 108). Later he suggests that the book "should not be addressed as a review of the state of the art of empirical research in animal communication, and readers - especially if their primary interest lies not in primate and human communication - should take this into account when approaching the [book] "Evolution of Communication". The same is true of the initial issue of the Journal.

We had two other criticisms with this first issue of *Evolution of Communication*. The first is the lack of experimental studies, though this was a stated goal of the journal. We advocate the continued forum for review articles, but also feel that primary empirical research is vital to advance our understanding of evolution in communication systems. Secondly, detail of the adaptive functions of many of the communicative behaviours

mentioned in articles tended to be lacking, something we feel is critical in understanding the evolution of the behaviour.

The stated goals of the journal are admirable ones, and we would advocate a journal that published work along these lines. However to attract a readership among Behavioural Ecologists, it will likely be necessary to actively select articles that encompass a larger taxa and a broader definition of communication. The hidden complexity of "simple" communication systems found among insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and non-primate mammals have enormous potential for understanding the perception and production of signals, which may lead to the evolution of higher levels of communication, such as those of a combinatorial language.

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Ulrike Langemann

Tom Peake

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Denmark

Please vote for one of the candidates on the following ballot and send your ballots to Patty Parker (current Secretary) at the address below. Fax (614-292-2030) or email (parker.3@osu.edu) responses will be counted as well. All ballots received on or before 15 July will be counted.

Ballot for Secretary, ISBE:

_____ Marion Petrie
_____ Scott Pitnick

Mail completed ballot to:

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