



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 4

October 1990

The 1990 biennial meeting of ISBE in Uppsala is history, and if you missed it, you have our sympathy. From the opening get-together, where reindeer sandwiches were gobbled by the score, to the final pub-evening at "Gotland's Nation", the atmosphere was special: at once amiable and yet energized.

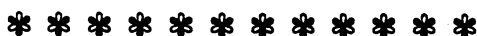
What a lovely venue is Uppsala and its distinguished ancient University! Linnaeus's summer house and Rudbeck's Anatomical Theatre provided evocative looks at the past, and the remarkable banquet at the Castle will remain memorable while other meetings blur and fade. And what a fine scientific program! Mornings were reserved for invited plenary talks in the spectacularly theatrical Main University Hall and/or for poster sessions in the adjacent Foyer and Gallery. In the afternoons, three or four simultaneous paper sessions, grouped by area, competed for our attention. Altogether, the scientific program consisted of 9 morning invited talks, 126 afternoon paper presentations, about 185 posters, and John Maynard Smith's presentation of his collection of ribald peafowl cartoons under the guise of a keynote address on "Sexual selection".

The keynote topic was clearly well chosen for the audience: Behavioural ecologists are evidently obsessed with sex (and food). Most talks and posters were categorized under one of three topics: "Mating Patterns and Reproduction", "Foraging" and "Sexual Selection". "Social Behaviour" and "Communication" often turned out to be euphemisms for sex, too. But there were also sessions on "Migration and Dispersal", "Territoriality", "Predation", and even "Dynamic Optimization" (and if anyone's in the dark about this last topic, the title of the concluding paper in the session may help: "Mate choice, search theory, and sexual selection".)

The conference was beautifully run by a small army of local workers, badged by their red sweatshirts:

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|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Ingrid Ahnesjö | Anders Forsman | Anders Pape Møller |
| Klas Allander | Lars Gustaffsson | Karin Olsson |
| Jan Bengtsson | Marianne Heijkenskjold | Mats W Pettersson |
| Anders Berglund | Lars Hillström | Tomas Pärt |
| Mats Björklund | Jacob Höglund | Linda Reneland |
| Mark Blackmore | Ola Jennersten | Gunilla Rosenqvist |
| Ingegerd Borg | Birgitta Johansson | Per Sjögren |
| Jeija Dufva | Charlotte Kvarnemoj | Jan Sundberg |
| Torbjörn Ebenhard | Kjell Larsson | Bo G Svensson |
| Bodil Enoksson | Lars-Erik Lindell | Astrid Ulfstrand |
| Ingela Ericsson | Mats Lindén | Staffan Ulfstrand |
| Dag Eriksson | Arne Lundberg | Lars Wallin |
| Mats Eriksson | Carin Magnhagen | Fredrik Widemo |
| Elisabeth Forsgren | Berit Martinsson | Stefan Ås |
| Pär Forslund | Juha Merilä | |

From all of us who benefitted from your labours, *tack, tack, tack så mycket!*



Noteworthy Utterance Recorded at Uppsala:

"The larger of the two females gets the corpse." -- Linda Partridge.

(The context in which this utterance was recorded does not support the theory that it refers in any way to the speaker's ascendancy to the Presidency of ISBE.)

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
International Society for Behavioral Ecology,
23 August 1990, Uppsala

1. Present: Martin Daly, Larry Dill, Patricia Gowaty, Felicity Huntingford, Don Kramer, John Krebs, Arne Lundberg, Manfred Milinski, Linda Partridge, Paul Schmid-Hempel, Staffan Ulfstrand.

Apologies from: Nancy Burley, Hugh Dingle, Tim Roper, Randy Thornhill.

Retiring president John Krebs welcomed all to the meeting, and handed over the chair to President Linda Partridge.

2. Election results were announced. Elected were:

President-elect	Larry Dill
Treasurer	Paul Schmid-Hempel
Secretary	Felicity Huntingford
Councillors	Patricia Gowaty Tim Roper

The procedure for the elections was adhered to, but those involved felt that too little time had been allowed at all stages. It was therefore agreed to recommend to the members at the business meeting that the timing be changed. The president will appoint a nominating committee at the biennial executive meeting. One year later this committee will canvass the membership for nominations, and if necessary nominate additional candidates. The elections will be held not more than six months before the next biennial meeting, and the ballot slip will include brief biographies of the candidates. If the members agree, article 5 of the constitution will be altered as proposed by retiring secretary Hugh Dingle. In anticipation of the changes, a nominating committee was appointed by Linda Partridge to consist of Larry Dill (chair), Patricia Gowaty, Felicity Huntingford and Arne Lundberg. Completed ballot slips should be sent to President-elect Larry Dill.

3. Treasurer's report. Outgoing Treasurer Martin Daly submitted a printed report. Society bank balances as of August 14, 1990 were US\$ 2644 and Cdn\$ 320 (plus < 100 SFr), with election mailing costs still to be debited. The balance (minus costs of this newsletter) will be forwarded to Treasurer Paul Schmid-Hempel, who will decide on the fate of the Swiss Giro account, which is at present very little used. OUP will take over the address list and the collection of subscriptions, \$2.50 of which will consist of society dues. This will be used to conduct

the ballot and to produce and mail the newsletter. Where possible, this will be mailed with the journal, and other mailings will be from the US, arranged through Randy Thornhill, who will produce the newsletter jointly with Paul Schmid-Hempel.

4. The editors' report on the journal was very encouraging. To date (Aug 23) there had been in excess of 50 submissions, with an acceptance rate of about 50% in both offices. A slightly higher submission rate is desirable, and members will be encouraged to submit their work to the journal, and to submit any suitable photographs for the cover at the same time. There were 496 paying member subscriptions. The handling of the journal by OUP has been excellent after some initial problems. The editors were congratulated and thanked by the executive.

5. Retiring officers. President Krebs, Secretary Dingle, Treasurer Daly and the two councillors who were elected for a 2 year period (Nancy Burley and Manfred Milinski) retire at this meeting.

6. Location of the 1994 meeting. The meeting should be somewhere in Europe, and more specifically in Britain, if possible, because of the large number of members there. One British offer to host the meeting has been received and was discussed. The executive committee agreed that the proposed venue would be suitable but that further volunteers should be solicited at the business meeting since an imminent decision was not essential.

7. The agenda for the business meeting was agreed (see separate minutes).

8. How wide is the subject? This topic was raised in the context of acceptance of papers for the journal and talks for the conference, and discussion of it particularly concerned work on humans. There was general agreement that the subject includes the functional significance of human behaviour, and that where techniques and methods peculiar to this area were used, expert referees should be consulted.

9. Other Business. It was agreed that if symposia from the conference are subsequently published as books, the editors will be asked to acknowledge the society.

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the
International Society for Behavioral Ecology,
24 August 1990, Uppsala

1. Members were welcomed by Linda Partridge and John Krebs.
2. Procedure for elections. A proposal from the Executive Committee for a change in the procedure for the elections was put to the members (see Executive Committee Meeting, item 2). It was agreed that in future the nominations committee will be appointed at the biennial meeting, and will canvass nominations from the members one year before the next meeting, with elections held six months later, to give plenty of time for both stages, and to operate in the time of year when members are least likely to be in the field. Article 5 of the Society's constitution will be appropriately amended.
3. The results of the Executive Committee elections were announced (see Executive Committee Meeting, item 2).
4. Members were encouraged to submit papers to the Society's journal, and to include suitable photographs for the cover. Members who could afford to do so were urged to take out subscriptions for members in countries where libraries cannot afford the purchase.
5. The next meeting of the Society will be in Princeton, U.S.A., in 1992. European members were asked for volunteers to host the 1994 meeting.
6. The newsletter will be edited by Paul Schmid-Hempel and Randy Thornhill, and members were asked for suggestions and items for inclusion.
7. Any other business. The procedure for joining the Society is to write to the publisher of the society journal, *Behavioral Ecology*. The publisher, Oxford University Press, holds the membership and address lists. At present, members are not vetted, but in future, referees may be requested.
The journal does not give free reprints, in order to keep subscription costs down. The publisher will be asked if authors can photocopy their own articles to provide reprints. The present number of subscribers is about 500. A question from the floor concerned the rationale for the journal's use of glossy paper. The paper on which the journal is printed is of high quality to allow for ready inclusion of both black and white and colour photographs.

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Behavioral Ecology

Well, the first issue of the society's new journal was indeed circulated in time for the Uppsala meeting, as advertised. I think everyone can agree that it is superb, both in production and in its content. Sincere appreciation from all of us are due to editors Don Kramer and Staffan Ulfstrand, all the authors, and the various relevant people at Oxford University Press.

If you are not a subscriber to *Behavioral Ecology*, you are no longer a member of ISBE, for subscription and membership are now one and the same. This is the last newsletter that non-subscribers will receive. Subscribe now! Write to the

Journals Fulfillment Department
Oxford University Press
2001 Evans Road
Cary NC 27513, U.S.A.

In case you've forgotten the details, there's an introductory offer: Volumes 1 & 2, totalling 6 issues, for a mere US\$ 44 (or an even merer US\$ 25.50 for students).

Dave Stephens, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, writes:

The **Behavioral Ecology E-Mail Group** provides a way to talk to a large number of colleagues; and therefore it allows behavioral ecologists to take advantage of the knowledge and insight available in the world's behavioral ecology community. For example, one might ask "Does anyone know a good example of 'helping' in a non-avian system?", "Does anyone have a computer program to do dynamic programming?", etc. etc.

Interested? To subscribe, send an e-mail message to

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Put the word "subscribe" (no quotes) in the subject field, and put your e-mail address, name and institution in the body of the message. That is, please send messages of the form:

From: Daly@McMaster.CA
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 Subject: subscribe
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 Name: Martin Daly
 Institution: McMaster

message ideas, etc.

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Some Meetings of Interest:

XXth International Ornithological Congress,
 Christchurch, New Zealand, 2-9 December 1990. --
 Address inquiries to Dr. Ben D. Bell,
 Department of Zoology, Victoria University of
 Wellington, New Zealand.

Winter & Annual General Meeting of the British Ecological Society, Manchester, UK, 18-20
 December 1990.

Address inquiries to British Ecological Society,
 Burlington House, Piccadilly, London
 W1V 0LQ, UK.

27th Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
 NC, U.S.A., 13-18 June 1991.

Address inquiries to John Williams, Department
 of Psychology, University of North Carolina,
 Wilmington NC 28403-3297, U.S.A. Tel.: 919-
 395-3371.

3rd Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Debrecen, Hungary, 2-6
 September 1991.

Address inquiries to Dr. Liz Pásztor,
 Department of Genetics, Eötvös University,
 1088 Budapest, Múzeum krt. 4/a, Hungary.

3rd Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society, McMaster University, Hamilton,
 Canada, 22-25 August 1991.

The Human Behavior and Evolution Society
 was formed in 1989 to promote the exchange of
 ideas and research findings among scientists in
 all disciplines who are using evolutionary
 theories in their study of human behavior.

Abstracts should be submitted by April 1,
 1991 to the Program Co-chairs: Nancy & Randy
 Thornhill, Department of Biology, University of
 New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131, U.S.A.

For information about the meeting please
 contact Margo Wilson or Martin Daly,
 Department of Psychology, McMaster
 University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S
 4K1; Tel: 416-525-9140 ext. 3033; FAX:416-
 529-6225; e-mail: Daly@McMaster.CA

28th Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, 13-
 18 June 1992.

Address inquiries to L. Ratcliffe or P. Colgan,
 Department of Biology, Queen's University,
 Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6.

Thank you indeed for having so honestly returned my wallet at the Uppsala meeting.

Sincerely and appreciatively, Dave Shutler.

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The Last Word from Uppsala:

Tradition requires that somebody should write a blurb about the recent meeting "from the perspective of the hosts", and Martin Daly very thoughtfully appended to his letter asking for such a piece the corresponding messages from Albany and Vancouver. I feel the same enthusiasm as exudes from these manifests; in Uppsala, too, we had great fun planning, organizing, and hosting the conference. It was very much a united effort by practically all members of the Animal Ecology group in Uppsala; technical and administrative staff, graduate students and faculty members were deeply involved. The day before you all arrived, 44 of us were busy preparing the poster boards, arranging the publications desk, ferrying flower pots from the Botanical Garden to the Main University Building, warding off one or two Early Men for whom we at the moment had little time, picking up beds lent by a nearby military installation in order to set up temporary dorms, obtaining special permission to serve beer at the "nations", worrying about the seating lists for the banquet--a million little things. We realized that one cannot prevent problems from arising every so often; we tried to minimize their ill effects by having double manning everywhere, double projectors, double cars...

Some people did sacrifice much time to make this meeting possible, but since we are such a large group with similar interests, most of us probably feel this loss of time was not disproportionate in relation to all the fun we had.

Over 500 people registered. At least to my taste, the scientific contributions in general were both nutritious and delicious

or at least either, and represented a very wide range of topics in vogue among behavioural ecologists. It also became evident that behavioural ecology is growing fast in many parts of the world where it has not been so strong in the past. We were pleased to have researchers and students from so many countries converging upon our university.

We are rather pleased with our Ornithological Oration-Interrupters (Pat. Pend.) at the contributed paper sessions. Only a few people were pachydermous enough to ignore this rather obvious sign of imminent expiration of their time in the lime-light. Yet, I worry that this mechanism may be susceptible to runaway evolution, and having myself received, from audiotechnically competent members of my group, suggestions of so crude means of stopping rambling speakers that my blood froze, I strongly advise future chair persons of organizing committees to keep a sharp eye on certain people's fiddling with tapes and microphones in the weeks before the conference. Otherwise something horrible may happen. Special security is recommended when certain notorious time-parasites are about to take the floor. After all, we want to remain a civilized society, don't we?

Uppsala has now given the relay-race baton over to Princeton. We envy our friends there all the fun they are going to have preparing the next meeting, and we have already hired a jumbo airliner to bring us there in 1992. We can hardly wait...

Staffan Ulfstrand
Ex-Redshirt XXL

Would you like to receive a truly informative *ISBE Newsletter*, appearing regularly?
If so, it's up to you to send submissions, notifications of meetings, whatever you'd like to see
in it, to the new editors:

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Rheinsprung 9
CH-4051 Basel
Switzerland

Randy Thornhill
Department of Biology
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Albuquerque NM 87131
U.S.A.

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As for this old newsletter editor, I'll sign off with a reminder:

See you all in Princeton in 1992!