

# ISBE Newsletter

International Society for Behavioral Ecology

[www.behavecol.com](http://www.behavecol.com)

Supplement to *Behavioral Ecology*

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## I S B E 2 0 1 4

### ISBE 2014 New York, USA

The ISBE 2014 Conference (July 31-August 4, 2014) will be held in New York City, hosted by Hunter College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and the behavioral ecology research community based at various CUNY campuses, Columbia University, and the American Museum of Natural History. With its vibrant scientific, technological, and cultural life, and increasingly valuable green spaces and coastal habitats, New York City will provide a unique backdrop for the 15th conference of the society.

Confirmed plenary speakers include Profs. Tom Seeley (Cornell University: honeybee socioeconomics) and Liz Tibbetts (University of Michigan: wasp recognition systems).

For more information to come, please contact Mark.Hauber@Hunter.CUNY.edu and visit: <http://cabi.hunter.cuny.edu>



**HUNTER IS CUNY**

**HUNTER**  
The City University of New York

**ISBE 2014 Conference in NYC:**  
July 31- August 5, 2014

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Contact and updates:

[ISBE2014@gmail.com](mailto:ISBE2014@gmail.com)

<http://cabi.hunter.cuny.edu/>

## Behavioral Ecology - Report from the Editor-in-Chief

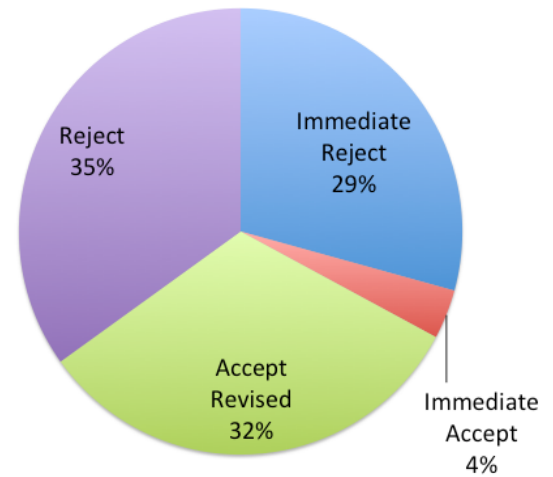
This is my first report as Editor-in-Chief for Behavioral Ecology, having taken over from Mark Elgar in January 2012. Having been appointed to the position of Editor-in-Chief, Mark and I instigated a gradual handover of responsibilities, with me serving as an Editor from September 2011 and shadowing Mark until the handover in January. This has facilitated a smooth transition, and I am extremely grateful to Mark for his continued assistance over the first 6 months of my tenure. I would also take this opportunity of thanking Mark on behalf of the ISBE and Oxford University Press for his services to the journal since its very first issue in 1990.

### Editorial Board

There have been a number of additional changes to the Editorial team. A number of our Editors have finished their terms of office over the last two years, including Debera Gordon (2011), Michaela Hau (2012), Iain Couzin (2011), Daiqin Li (2012), Rob Brooks (2012), and Hans Hoffman (2012). I would like to formally thank each of these individuals for their hard work and dedication to the journal. Sue Healy also completed her term as Editor, and generously agreed to replace Rob Brooks as our new Forum Editor. In addition we have 6 new Editors, Anna Dornhaus, Paco Garcia-Gonzalez, Shinichi Nakagawa, Alison Bell, Wolfgang Forstmeier, and Alexi Maklakov. I am extremely grateful to these individuals for agreeing to offer their time and expertise to build upon the strength of our journal over the next few years. Mark Blows, Becky Kilner, Lotta Kvarnemo, Jutta Schneider and Bill Sutherland all finished terms on the Editorial Board in 2010, and were replaced by Jens Krause, Bruce Lyon, I-Min Tso, Nina Wedell, and Andy Zinc. Our editorial structure thus affords a broad area of expertise in behavioral ecology research.

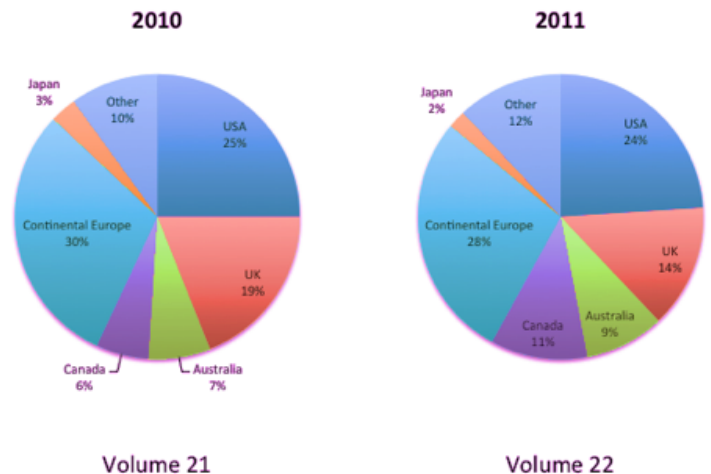
### Manuscript Submissions, Decisions, and production

Over the period August 2010 - July 2012, Behavioral Ecology received 1,706 Original Articles, and invited 26 Reviews and associated Commentaries, and 28 Ideas. Over the same period, decisions were made on 1117 submissions. Of these 64% were rejected (29% without review) and 36% were accepted for publication. This is broadly in line with the previous reporting period (2008-2010: 67% rejected (29% without review) and 32% accepted). The mean time for a decision to be made was  $43 \pm 4$  days. The time from decision to publication in advance of print remains under 4 weeks.

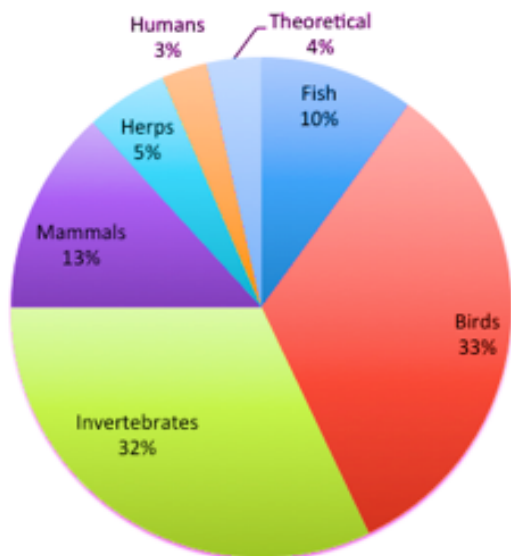


### Published Volumes

Volumes 21 and 22 of Behavioral Ecology appeared in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Volume 21 comprised a total of 1379 pages with 178 original articles, 2 Invited Reviews and 10 Invited Ideas. Volume 22 comprised a total of 1374 pages with 162 original articles, 6 Invited Reviews with associated Commentaries, and 4 Invited Ideas. Collectively, at the end of July 2012 these articles had been cited a total of 1334 with an H-index of 12, that is 12 papers being cited 12 or more times.

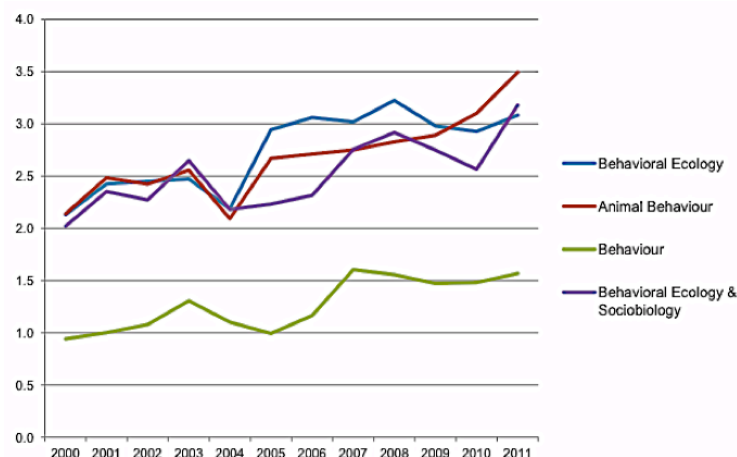


Published authors came from 38 countries, with continental Europe, the USA and the UK being the largest represented groups. Published papers covered a broad range of subjects within the journals remit, and described work on broad range of taxonomic groups, with invertebrates (largely insects) and birds being the most studied taxa.



## Journal Impact

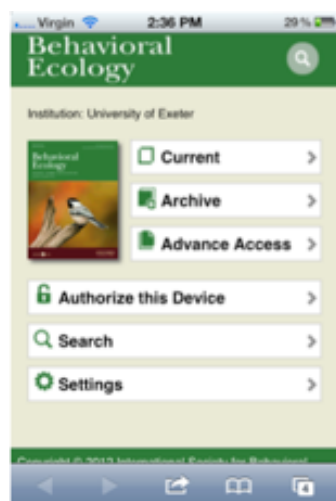
The ISI Impact Factor for *Behavioral Ecology* rose from 2.926 in 2010 to 3.083 in 2011 and is currently ranked 18/47 in Behavioral Sciences, 36/131 in Ecology, and 10/146 in Zoology. Our Impact Factor is broadly similar to our closest competitors *Animal Behaviour* (3.493) and *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* (3.179).



## The Electronic Journal

The home page has attracted between 20,000 and 40,000 hits per quarter, with downloads of full text HTML and pdfs in the region of 15,000 to 30,000 per quarter.

*Behavioral Ecology* went mobile in 2010, and some of you will have noticed the addition of a QR code to the back cover. The code can be scanned from a smart phone or tablet, which then takes you directly to the mobile journal, which can be browsed, abstracts accessed, pdfs downloaded, or e-mailed to users or their contacts. Uptake of this service is increasing rapidly.



Nonetheless it clear that our IF has lost ground over the past few years, relative to our competitors. The impact factor of a journal depends on the numbers of citations attracted by the papers it published in the preceding 2 year period, divided by the total number of citable papers in that period. For the 2011 IF some 16% of papers remain uncited. In order to raise our impact, I and my editors will be working to identify submissions that are unlikely to be cited and to reject them.

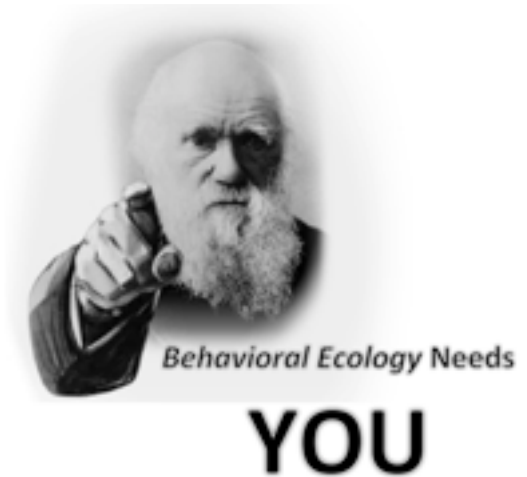
Our Forum section is now well established and our invited reviews should contribute to a significant increase in our 2012 ISI Impact factor. We are working hard on promoting our research via new initiatives in publishing and marketing. For example from volume 23 we will highlight one article per issue as "Editor's Choice", making these articles free to view. We will also target newsworthy articles via OUP's social media hub, OUPblog. However, neither the Editors nor OUP can raise the IF of *Behavioral Ecology* alone.

We need you, our membership, to send us your very best work, those papers that will attract the high numbers of citations necessary to raise our journals impact. *Behavioral Ecology* is your society's journal, and should be your journal of choice for any manuscripts describing evolutionary and ecological studies of behavior. One of my aims as the new Editor-in-Chief is to overhaul our Editorial Board, and to initiate new editorial procedures that will reduce decision times, and provide a more efficient and rapid service for authors, making *Behavioral Ecology* an attractive choice for speedy and high profile publication.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity of extending the Society's sincere thanks to Cathy Kennedy, the Publishing Manager at OUP who has been responsible for *Behavioral Ecology* for more than 8 years. Being a behavioural ecologist herself, over the years Cathy has contributed immensely to the development and success of our journal. Sadly for us, Cathy is retiring from OUP, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Leigh W. Simmons

Editor-in-Chief, Behavioral Ecology  
leigh.simmons@uwa.edu.au



## I S B E   A G M   M I N U T E S

## ISBE Business Meeting Lund, 16 August 2012

Gunilla Rosenqvist, the new President of the ISBE, welcomed the 80 dedicated people who had been enticed indoors from the carnival atmosphere of summer lunch on the lawns outside the conference venue.

Gunilla introduced the ISBE Executive, who are all elected by the membership. She explained that voting was done online, but was concerned that some members did not get the announcement about the recent elections. A straw poll suggested some members did not receive the information. Gunilla encouraged everyone to look out for messages about the election in early 2014, when the incoming President Nina Weddell will be organizing the next round of elections. Cathy Kennedy, from Oxford University Press, later circulated a sheet asking for e-mail addresses of people that had not received notification, to try to identify the problem.

The Society currently has 768 members, but given that there were about 1000 delegates at Lund, we should have more. So what does the Society do? The main event is the biennial meeting, organized by a local committee. Members of the Society get a discount on registration fees and can apply for travel grants to attend the conference. The Society also publishes the journal *Behavioral Ecology* with Oxford University Press. One of the main reasons for founding the Society was to establish a journal where the profits go back to members. Gunilla encouraged all to submit to the Journal, which directly benefits ISBE members, as well as the field of behavioral ecology more broadly.

Kate Lessells stepped in to discuss the photo competition, which is a new initiative by the Society. The aims of the competition are to produce a photo web archive of useful images and information, and to engage young people in the

Society. It is necessary to be a member of the Society to enter. Despite being advertised in the Newsletter, most people at the conference were unaware of the competition until the winners' photos were on display, so we will need to advertise more broadly. Kate appealed to everyone to spread the word, especially to post-grads and post-docs.

Gunilla complimented Mariella Herberstein for her excellent work in editing the Newsletter and web page. The Newsletter is currently produced in print, but will move online by 2013. This will provide easier access as well as being better environmentally. Please consider contributing, or suggest what can be included.

Gunilla concluded her remarks by asking members to: (1) spread the word about the ISBE; (2) publish in *Behavioral Ecology*; (3) send contributions to the Newsletter; (4) suggest a venue for the 2016 conference; and (5) promote the field of behavioral ecology to anyone who will listen. This last issue was taken up later in the meeting, when Trond Amundsen noted that the conference had minimal media profile. Given the diversity of interesting research, he suggested we should be getting more publicity. Andrew Cockburn responded that in the past there had been problems with journalists reporting as yet unpublished research, thereby jeopardising publication in top journals, so engagement with the media needs to be handled carefully.

Leigh Simmons took over as Editor-in-Chief of *Behavioral Ecology* at the beginning on 2012, after working with Mark Elgar for a 3-month period of transition. Leigh started by thanking Mark for his excellent work on the Journal, in one capacity or another since the first issue. He also thanked the retiring editors and welcomed the new members of the editorial board.

*Behavioral Ecology* is thriving and new initiatives should help it to remain competitive. For the period Aug 2010-July 2012,

1706 original articles were submitted, and 26 reviews and 28 ideas papers invited. There were decisions on 1117, of which 36% were accepted, 29% immediately rejected, and 35% rejected following review. These outcomes are similar to previous years. The mean time from submission to decision was 43 days, and accepted papers appeared online in less than 4 weeks. Leigh aims to get decision times down. The Impact Factor is now 3.083, up from 2.926, which is similar to *Animal Behaviour* and *Behavioral Ecology & Sociobiology*. However, the *Behavioral Ecology* Impact Factor seems to be drifting compared to the other journals, which are still rising. A new initiative is the introduction of an Editor's Choice article, free to view, which will lead to virtual issues. The Journal also has excellent Oxford University Press media officer, who will increase press releases. The electronic journal is also very active, with 20-30,000 html and pdf downloads per quarter, and another initiative is the already popular mobile web site. The QR code on the on back of journal takes you to site, where you can search current and archived papers. Ultimately, the key to long-term success is a good flow of high quality papers, so Leigh reiterated Gunilla's message to publish in *Behavioral Ecology*. He also emphasized that, despite some comments he had heard, *Behavioral Ecology* was not a "bird journal"; for example, in the last two years only 33% of papers were on birds, a similar percentage to invertebrates. The Journal encourages a diversity of papers, including on humans.

Leigh invited discussion and questions about the journal. Two people praised the Journal's double-blind reviewing process, and one of these delegates suggested that the journal could prosper by become more geographically inclusive. Currently, most papers are by authors from the USA, UK or continental Europe, but perhaps the journal could actively encourage and support research and publication from other areas. Leigh agreed to meet and discuss initiatives. This issue was related to another discussion about what differentiates the Journal from other behaviour journals. Trond Amundson suggested that increasing communication and controversy would help the journal. Leigh noted that the Forum section was designed to do exactly that, and the first issue with a full set of Forum papers was in 2011, and this may soon be reflected in journal impact. There was some discussion whether the process of "invitation" of Forum papers disadvantaged young researchers, and how one came to be "invited". Leigh reassured everyone that it was possible to propose an article, after which they could be invited to write it; there is already information on the web site. Finally, there was discussion about the cost of Open Access publication in the Journal. Open Access is available to all authors, but there is limited demand. Cathy Kennedy, from Oxford University Press, said that a small reduction in price would probably have little impact on uptake, while a large reduction would drastically reduce income to the Society.

Leigh concluded by warmly thanking Cathy Kennedy, from Oxford University Press, for her energetic support for the Journal over many years, and wished her well for an active retirement. The vote of thanks was echoed by general applause, as many of us have enjoyed working with Cathy and have appreciated her interest in the success of the Society and Journal.

Walt Koenig, who has been the Treasurer since 2000, reported that the Society was in good financial shape. The bulk of the Society's income comes from our share of the Journal profits, which is split roughly 50:50 with Oxford University Press. In the last few years the Society has received about \$100,000 US per year from the Journal, and a small amount from membership fees. The Society also has an agreement with local organizing committees to return profits from conferences, but in practice organizers have been successful in keeping costs down and avoiding profits. The Society has a reserve of \$400,000, and aims to spend all current income, which means about \$200,000 each two years. Most of this money is spent on travel grants to enable members to attend the biennial conference. This year the grants committee, composed of Walt Koenig, Rob Magrath (Secretary), Bruce Lyon and Roxanna Torres (Councillors) assessed the grants and awarded \$220,000 to support 139 grant applicants out of 179 applications. Priority goes to senior PhD students, early career researchers, and those from developing countries. Many of those that were not funded are likely to be funded next time, as senior PhD students get priority over Masters and early-PhD students. Other Society costs include the Newsletter, and subsidised travel for *Behavioral Ecology* Editors and members of the ISBE Executive to attend the biennial meetings held before the ISBE conference. All financial records are available to members of the Society, so anyone is welcome to contact the Treasurer for further details.

Gunilla rounded off proceedings by asking for opinions on where we should seek to hold the 2016 meeting. Should we seek to have it in Europe – the usual pattern given the proximity to many behavioral ecologists and that the 2014 meeting will be in North America – or should we seek a new destination, such as Asia, Africa or South America? There was little time for discussion, given that conference talks were about to start, but Leigh Simmons voiced a common view that holding the conference in a new location would emphasize that we are a truly international Society.

I would like to finish by thanking Andres Brodin, Chair of the Lund organizing committee, the organizing committee as a whole, and all of the volunteers for a marvellous conference. Given how smoothly the conference ran, and how welcoming everyone was, it is easy to overlook the massive amount of work that underlies organizing and running a conference of this size. I know that at least one member of the organizing committee – Dennis Hasselquist – had sleepless nights working on strategies to balance the budget in the face of unexpected costs. And I'm sure he was not the only one to lose sleep. So I offer my personal thanks and appreciation, as well as those of the Society membership as a whole. We all left with happy memories of both the conference and the lovely city of Lund – and admiration for the organizing committee's Meteorological Officer, who produced the unbroken run of sunny days.

**Rob Magrath**  
**Australian National University**  
**ISBE Secretary**

## The ISBE newsletter goes electronic from 2013

After intensive discussion and contemplation, the time has come to move the newsletter from a paper based deliver to an electronic only version. The hard-copy option brings with it several sustainability issues, including the actual paper but also the shipping across the world. Most society members who subscribe to the the journal (*Behavioral Ecology*) also access that online rather than in hard copy. Thus, from 2013 the newsletter editor will email out a link to the current version of the newsletter to all members of the society. This means that society members must make sure their email address is up to date and functioning.

For those who miss the email or whose spam filters have gobbled up the announcement, the newsletter in its entirety will also be published on the society website with a brief delay. We hope that this guarantees access to the newsletter for all society members.

We have the opportunity to discuss how the new electronic delivery of the newsletter is working during the AGM at the 2014 meeting in New York.

If you have any questions or suggestions in the meantime, please email me (marie.herberstein@mq.edu.au)

## I S B E P H O T O C O M P E T I T I O N

### 2013 ISBE photo competition is now OPEN

The Please send your best photos to (isbephotocomp@gmail.com) by February 1st 2013. The winner and runners up will be announced in the 2013 Spring ISBE newsletter.

Prizes will include book prizes from Oxford University Press for winning entries for each of the three categories. The winning photographs will be published on the ISBE website (www.behavecol.com).

#### Categories

**Behavior and interactions:** Photos should depict aspects of behavior or behavioral interactions between organisms.

**Behavioral Ecology in action:** Photos should relate to conducting research in behavioral ecology and could include field work or experiments.

**Student Prize:** this category is only open to current (2012) student members of ISBE. Photos should depict any aspect of behavior and behavioral ecology.

#### Competition rules

- The competition is open to current (2012) ISBE members only
- Applicants can only submit one photograph per category and the same photo can not be submitted for more than one category
- All photos must be accompanied by an entry form available from [www.behavecol.com](http://www.behavecol.com) that describes the species name and a description of the scene.
- Entries must be digital images saved in TIFF, JPEG or RAW file.
- Digital enhancements must be kept to a minimum and must be declared. Both the original and the enhanced image must be submitted.
- All submitted files must include the entrant's surname in the file name.
- A panel of judges appointed by the ISBE executive will judge the entries and their decision is final. Winning entries will be announced in the March ISBE newsletter and displayed on the ISBE website. Winners will be notified by email.
- It is a condition of entry that all submissions are entered under a Creative Commons License ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en\\_GB](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en_GB)), will be displayed on the ISBE website and may be used for non-commercial purposes.
- The ISBE does not accept any responsibility should an entry be lost, damaged or the submission be delayed. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.
- The closing date for entries is 1st of February 2013.

## In the with new, out with the old!

Change is as good as a holiday, and the ISBE newsletter does need a holiday, some fresh eyes and new ideas. Therefore, I am very pleased to announce that Andreas Svensson, Linnaeus University, Sweden (<http://lnu.se/employee/andreas.svensson?l=en>) will join the ISBE newsletter from 2013.

Andreas and I will produce the 2013 newsletters together and from 2014 Andreas will become the newsletter editor.

2013 will also be the first year that the newsletter goes exclusively online, so it will be a very exciting year for both Andreas and I.

Now is the time to come forward with your ideas for the new ISBE newsletter and editor! Please email either Andreas ([andreas.svensson@lnu.se](mailto:andreas.svensson@lnu.se)) or me ([marie.herberstein@mq.edu.au](mailto:marie.herberstein@mq.edu.au)).

As always, my sincere thanks go to Richard Peters, our unwavering webmaster of the ISBE website.

**Mariella Herberstein**  
**Macquarie University**

## O T H E R   S O C I E T Y   N E W S

## New Address

### Dr. Ted Stankowich

California State University, Long Beach:  
Department of Biological Sciences  
1250 Bellflower Blvd.  
California State University, Long Beach  
Long Beach, CA 90840  
[theodore.stankowich@csulb.edu](mailto:theodore.stankowich@csulb.edu)  
[www.csulb.edu/~tstankow](http://www.csulb.edu/~tstankow)  
Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology of Predator-Prey Interactions

### Dr Carl Soulsbury

School of Life Sciences  
University of Lincoln  
Riseholme Park  
Lincoln  
LN2 2LG, UK  
[csoulsbury@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:csoulsbury@lincoln.ac.uk)  
<http://ulincoln.academia.edu/CarlSoulsbury>

## Integrating Ecology, Psychology and Neurobiology within a Food-Hoarding Paradigm

2 years ago, Vladimir Pravosudov (UN Reno) and I edited an issue of Phil Trans Roy Soc B entitled "Integrating Ecology, Psychology and Neurobiology within a Food-Hoarding Paradigm". It combines a number of review papers on different aspects of food-hoarding behavior, from ecology to neurobiology, some of which may be of interest to you.

All the papers are now freely available online and can be found here: <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/365/1542.toc>

I hope this may be of use to you in your research and/or your teaching.

*Tom Smulders*

## B E F R I E N D   B E H A V I O R A L   E C O L O G Y

## Facebook page for *Behavioral Ecology*

*Behavioral Ecology* has recently launched a Facebook page <<https://www.facebook.com/behecol>>. We hope that this page will serve as a social media hub for the journal, providing a forum for *Behavioral Ecology* readers and authors to discuss the research published within the journal.

We encourage critical evaluation and debate on the papers we publish, and for authors to "socialize" their science. No longer is it sufficient to publish scientific research in learned journals. In a modern world with ever increasing numbers of journals and publications, we need to ensure our work gets noticed, read, and cited. We hope that our Facebook page will provide authors with the forum to do just that.

*Leigh Simmons, Editor in Chief, Behavioral Ecology*

## Ecology and Evolution of Dung Beetles

Edited by Leigh W. Simmons & T. James Ridsdill-Smith  
Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 347 pages.  
ISBN 978-1-4443-3315-2

The dung beetles (Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeinae) have become a model system for an extraordinary breadth of sub-disciplines within evolutionary biology, ecology and behavior. Incredibly diverse, (the genus *Onthophagus* is the most speciose animal genus on the planet) they inhabit the majority of the earth's major biomes, wherever dung is available. They range from enormous beetles (over 5cm long), which utilize elephant dung, through to tiny species that use insect and reptile frass.

Within the dung beetles, there are even species which exhibit some striking exceptions to dung feeding with carnivorous species that specialize on millipedes (one of the few animals that do). Inextricably linked to an ephemeral resource, they have been the focus of major empirical tests of population and community ecology theory, and because of their vital role in removing wastes from both natural and agricultural ecosystems, they have been transported around the planet to assist humans with dealing with waste from our livestock.

Behaviorally diverse, dung beetles have perhaps been best studied in the context of sexual selection, due to their elaborate sexually selected horns and alternative mating tactics. Additionally, our understanding of the interaction between evolutionary and developmental mechanisms behind exaggerated traits is almost entirely due to extensive recent research on horn development in dung beetles.

*Ecology and Evolution of Dung Beetles*, edited by Leigh W. Simmons and T. James Ridsdill-Smith, is an outstanding book which showcases dung beetles for their important contribution to ecology, evolution and behavior research, bringing together many of the world's leading biologists to discuss current research and synthesize what is known about these fascinating animals. Additionally, some chapters present entirely new results, or use research on dung beetles to thoroughly develop theoretical concepts making this book more than just a simple overview of dung beetle biology.

What is most impressive about this book is the way that reproduction competition is highlighted from the beginning (Chapter 1: Simmons & Ridsdill-Smith) as the most important and pervasive driver behind much of their ecology and behavior. This theme flows through the book, despite the contributions coming from diverse authors on diverse topics, and makes for a cohesive and engaging read.

For me, the real highlights of the book were the four contributions on sexual selection and the evolution and development of exaggerated weaponry. Together, these chapters provide a detailed and thorough review of the literature emphasizing just how important dung beetles are to our understanding of the evolution of animal weaponry (Chapter 3: Knell), postcopulatory sexual selection (Chapter 4: Simmons), conditional strategies and threshold

polymorphisms (Chapter 6: Tomkins & Hazel) and phenotypic plasticity and evo-devo (Chapter 7: Moczek). All of these subjects would surely not have been developed as fully as we now know them without the wealth of data that dung beetles have provided over the last few decades.

The importance of dung as an ephemeral resource is highlighted in chapters discussing the olfactory (Chapter 5: Tribe & Burger) and visual ecology (Chapter 9: Byrne & Dacke) of dung beetles, demonstrating the sophisticated sensory mechanisms these insects have for rapidly locating dung. I was particularly fascinated by the discussion of how the eyes of crepuscular dung beetles use polarized light to orient themselves when rolling dung balls away for burial.

The ephemeral nature of dung also has important implications for the use of dung beetle populations and communities to test ecological theory (Chapter 11: Roslin & Viljanen) and I very much enjoyed these authors' focus on two very different resources, where "on a warm sunny day, two droppings simultaneously hit the ground". The comparison is of how dung beetle communities respond to the "two kilos of wet dung splashing onto the grass" from a Finnish cow, and the "small pellet plopping quietly to the steep hillside below" a lemur in the Madagascan rainforest. Beautifully written, this chapter was engaging even for someone like myself, with little background in population and community ecology.

Finally, the last two chapters of the book provide convincing evidence of the importance of dung beetles in providing ecosystem services such as nutrient cycling and biological control of dung-breeding flies (Chapter 12: Ridsdill-Smith & Edwards), and of the great potential for using dung beetles as ecological disturbance indicators (Chapter 13: Nichols & Gardner).

Additional chapters cover such diverse topics as evolutionary history and phylogenetics (Philips), parental care (Hunt & House) and ecophysiology (Chown & Klok). Overall, I can highly recommend *Ecology and Evolution of Dung Beetles* to a wide readership. Obviously any entomologist with even a passing interest in these beetles will find it fascinating reading, but for behavioral ecologists more specifically focused on the topics mentioned above, particularly the evolution of sexually selected traits and the role that reproductive competition can have on the ecology and evolution of animals generally, will get a lot out of this book.

Finally, as someone who teaches a diverse range of courses in ecology, evolution and behavior, this book has provided me with countless examples to incorporate into lectures. Hopefully, my students will be as fascinated by dung beetles as I now am.

**Greg Holwell**  
**School of Biological Sciences**  
**The University of Auckland**  
**New Zealand**

**Name:** Jonathan N. Pruitt

**Education:** PhD (2010) University of Tennessee, Postdoc (2011) University of California Davis, Assistant Professor (2011-2012) University of Pittsburgh.

**Current Address:** Department of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260; pruitjtj@pitt.edu

**Research Interests:** social evolution, animal personality, ecological consequences of intraspecific variation

**Selected Papers:**

Pruitt JN, Oufiero CE, Avilés L, Riechert SE (2012) Iterative evolution of increased behavioral variation characterizes the transition to sociality in spiders and proves advantageous. *The American Naturalist* 180:496-510.

Pruitt JN, Riechert SE (2011) How within-group behavioural variation and task efficiency enhance fitness in a social group. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B* 278:1209-1215.

Pruitt JN (2012) Behavioral traits of colony founders affect the life history of their colony. *Ecology Letters* 15:1026-1032.

Pruitt JN, Stachowicz JJ, Sih A (2012) Behavioral types of both predator and prey jointly determine prey survival: potential implications for the maintenance of within species behavioral variation. *The American Naturalist* 179:217-227

Pruitt JN, Ferrari MCO (2011) Intraspecific trait variants determine the nature of interspecific interactions in habitat forming species. *Ecology* 92:1902-1908.

**Name:** Julien Martin

**Education:** French Master (2003) Crepuq UQAM, Montréal, Canada and University of Nancy, France; MSc (2003-2005) UQAM, Montréal, Canada; PhD (2006-2010) Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Canada

**Current Address:** Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California - Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606, USA. Email: [julienmartin@ucla.edu](mailto:julienmartin@ucla.edu)

**Research Interests:** Evolutionary ecology; individual differences in behaviour and life-history traits; plasticity; selection; environmental variation; quantitative genetic

**Selected Papers:**

Martin JGA, Festa-Bianchet M 2011. Age-independent and age-dependent decreases in reproduction of females. *Ecology Letters* 14:576-581

Martin JGA, Nussey D, Wilson A, Réale D 2011. Measuring individual differences in reaction norms in field and experimental studies: a power analysis of random regression models. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 2:362-374

Martin JGA, Festa-Bianchet M 2011. Sex ratio bias and reproductive strategy: what sex to produce when? *Ecology* 92:441-449

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Martin JGA, Réale, D. 2008. Temperament, risk assessment and habituation to novelty in Eastern chipmunks, *Tamias striatus*. *Animal Behaviour* 75: 309-318

**Name:** Kate Umbers

**Education:** BSc Hons (2006) Macquarie University, PhD 2007-2011 Macquarie University, Australia.

**Current Address:** Evolution, Ecology & Genetics, Research School of Biology, Australian National University, Canberra 0200, Australia; [kate.umpers@anu.edu.au](mailto:kate.umpers@anu.edu.au) / Dept Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney 2109, Australia

**Research Interests:** biophysics, genetics, colour, signalling, blue things

**Selected Papers:**

Umbers KDL, Dennison S, Manahan C, Blondin, L, Pages C, Risterucci A-M & Chapuis M-P (2012) Microsatellite markers for the chameleon grasshopper *Kosciuscola tristis* (Orthoptera: Acrididae), an Australian alpine specialist *Int J Mol Sci* 13 12094-12099

Umbers K D L, Osborne L and Keogh J S (in press) Determinants of contest success in the territorial tawny dragon, *Ctenophorus delessii* *PLoS ONE*

Umbers KDL (2011) Turn the temperature to turquoise: cues for colour change in the chameleon grasshopper (*Kosciuscola tristis*) *J Insect Phys* 57 (9) 1198-1204

Umbers KDL (provisionally accepted) On the function of blue colouration in animals *J Zool*

Umbers KDL, Holwell GI and Herberstein ME (2011) Molecular evidence for variation in polyandry among praying mantids (Mantodea: Ciulfina) *J Zool* 284 (1) 40-45

**Name:** Julien Cote

**Education:** MSc (2003) University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France; PhD (2006) University Pierre et Marie Curie.

**Current Address:** Laboratoire Evolution et Diversité Biologique, University Toulouse 3 – CNRS, 31000 Toulouse, France; [julien.cote@univ-tlse3.fr](mailto:julien.cote@univ-tlse3.fr)

**Research Interests:** Dispersal, ecology of personality traits, social information use

**Selected Papers:**

Sih A., Cote J., Evans M., Fogarty S. and J. Pruitt. 2012. Ecological implications of behavioral syndromes. *Ecology Letters*. 15(3): 278-289.

Cote, J., Clobert, J., Brodin, T., Fogarty, S. And A. Sih. 2010. Personality-dependent dispersal: characterization, ontogeny and consequences for spatially structured populations. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*. 365: 4065-4076.

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**Name:** Ben Pitcher

**Education:** BSc Hons (2005) The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia; PhD - Joint Doctoral Degree (2010) Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia and Universite Paris Sud 11, Paris, France.

**Current Address:** Biological and Experimental Psychology Group, School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, United Kingdom, b.pitcher@qmul.ac.uk

Research Website: [www.pitcher.net.au](http://www.pitcher.net.au)

**Research Interests:** Vocal communication; multimodal signalling; information coding-decoding; individual recognition.

#### **Selected Papers:**

Pitcher BJ, Harcourt RG, Charrier I (2012) Individual identity encoding and environmental constraints in vocal recognition of pups by Australian sea lion mothers. *Animal Behaviour* 83: 681-690.

Pitcher BJ, Harcourt RG, Schaal B, Charrier I (2011) Social olfaction in marine mammals: wild female Australian sea lions can identify their pup's scent. *Biology Letters* 7: 60-62.

Pitcher BJ, Harcourt RG, Charrier I (2010) The memory remains: Long-term vocal recognition in Australian sea lions. *Animal Cognition* 13: 771-776.

**Name:** Noa Pinter-Wollman

**Education:** Ph.D. Animal Behavior, University of California, Davis (2008); M.S. Animal Behavior, University of California, Davis (2004); B.Sc. Biology, Tel-Aviv University, Israel (2003)

**Current address:** BioCircuits Institute, University of California, San Diego 9500 Gilman dr. Mail Code 0328, La Jolla, CA, 92093-0328, [nmpinter@ucsd.edu](mailto:nmpinter@ucsd.edu)

**Research Interests:** Self organization of social insect colonies, individual variation among workers and colonies

#### **Selected Papers:**

Pinter-Wollman N, Gordon DM, Holmes S 2012. Nest site and weather affect the 'personality' of harvester ant colonies. *Behavioral Ecology*. 23:1022-1027.

Pinter-Wollman N., Hubler J., Holley J.A., Franks N.R. & Dornhaus A. 2012. How is activity distributed among and within tasks in *Temnothorax* ants? *Behavioral Ecology, Sociobiology*. 66:1407-1420

Pinter-Wollman N. 2012. Personality in social insects: how does worker personality determine colony personality? *Current Zoology*. 58(4): 579-587

Pinter-Wollman N., Wollman R., Guetz A., Holmes S., and Gordon D.M. 2011. The effect of individual variation on the structure and function of interaction networks in harvester ants. *Journal of the Royal Society, Interface*. 8:1562-1573

## I S B E L O G O C O M P E T I T I O N

### ISBE Logo competition - now open!

It is time to renew the society logo! So sharpen your pens and creativity and design the new logo. In addition to fame and glory, there will be a book prize from Oxford University Press. The logo will feature the ISBE website and the newsletter for everyone to admire. Entry closes Feb 01 2013 and winners will be announced in the Spring 2013 ISBE newsletter. Please email your logo design to: [isbephotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:isbephotocomp@gmail.com)

## Impressions of the 14th International Behavioral Ecology Congress Lund University (12-18 August 2012)

I was expecting the worst from this conference: bad weather, bland food, crippling expensive alcohol, and nauseatingly beautiful people. At least there was the science, so it wouldn't be so bad. As it turned out, whilst the food and alcohol prices in Lund were expensive, they were not as bad as I had been led to believe by a former supervisor. He had told me I would be stealing fruit from the conference catering for later meals as he had done as a student whilst attending a meeting in Scandinavia. Indeed, the catering company obviously had much experience in provisioning conferences with sizeable student and post-doc populations, as they did not offer whole pieces of fruit (or many other portable food items) at many meal breaks. Therefore, food hoarding was not an optimal strategy in Lund; rather taking many small meals in order to avoid digestive bottlenecks and build up fat reserves was a better strategy.

The bi-annual International Behavioral Ecology Congress is among the biggest meetings on the calendar for people lucky enough to study behavioral ecology. I started coming to these meetings as a graduate student in 2006 and have been to each one since. Although there are commonalities to these meetings, each congress has its own character because of the location of the venue, the venue itself, and how the conference was organized. This meeting in Lund was perhaps the most intimate ISBE meeting that I have attended because of the compactness of the city and the conference venue. Lund is one of the smaller cities at which the congress has been held in recent times along with Ithaca in New York. Unlike Ithaca however, most of the sessions were held in a single building meaning that one could easily walk between sessions if you wanted to mix which talks you attended. Moreover, I met many other conference attendees while walking about the town or eating dinner at the many restaurants and bars in Lund. Lund's small size did mean that there was a lack of accommodation for conference attendees. Therefore, many conference attendees were forced to stay in the larger city of Malmö, which was nearby. The excellent public transport, however, meant that this did not hinder the social activities of most people apart from the most dedicated of party animals.

Although the city of Lund is small, it has a big academic reputation as it is home to Lund University was founded in 1666 (although a college was set up near the cathedral in 1425) and consistently ranks in the top 100 universities worldwide. The conference was not held on the main campus of Lund University, rather it was held close by in an old castle known as AG-Borgen. It was a short walk from AG-Borgen to the cathedral, which is one of the main draw cards for

tourists and also one of the main reasons there is a university in Lund.

One of the great things about the ISBE congress is that it draws not only people who are working in behavioral ecology, but many different flavors of biologists and scientists such as geneticists, evolutionary biologists, chemists, psychologists, neuroscientists, systematists. This means there is always someone to whom one can talk who will have a different view or interpretation of your work or the field of behavioral ecology. Different perspectives are important for researchers as it is often the case that one becomes blinkered by their own research and another perspective can help remove these. These conferences are also important for early career researchers as they provide an opportunity to showcase their research and to talk with other researchers in their field and it is also a place these young researchers to make the foundations for future collaborations and seek job opportunities. The ISBE encourages the participation of junior researchers by offering generous travel awards to students and post-docs. The ISBE should be congratulated on this policy and its continuation encouraged.

The scientific program at this year's congress was interesting and strong, and offered a good indication of what's hot in behavioral ecology at present. As with previous congresses, studies of sexual selection and communication were big at this conference (Table 1). However, the overall representation of these two areas has fallen from the meeting at Cornell. It is also evident that the study of behavioral ecology is becoming more fragmented and it is becoming harder to pigeon-hole studies into a single area as some sessions were quite eclectic in the types of talks that were grouped together. This may partly be due to the fact that now researchers are focusing more on interactions between many factors than on simple mate choice or dawn chorus. However, I think it is also a fact of the field maturing, meaning we are turning our attention to new problems or looking at old problems in new ways. Therefore, many of the presentations at this congress included multiple topics meaning their classifications were difficult to assign. What is apparent is that animal personalities, predator-prey interactions, host-parasite interactions, and life-history remain popular areas of study. A new area that received a lot of attention was the effect of environmental and habitat differences on behavior and life history of animals. Many researchers are seizing the opportunity to examine the changes that are occurring in animals living in urban environments compared to other environments and how populations are responding to global climate change. Indeed there is an urgent need for more data on how anthropogenic environmental impacts are affecting wildlife and this field is likely to see further growth in coming years.

Table 1: The percentage of presentations listed by topic at ISBE 2008 (Cornell) and ISBE 2012 (Lund)

	2008	2012
Sexual selection	27.1	22.2
Personality	2.2	5.9
Cognition	3.9	4.7
Communication and signals	24.5	17.3
Predator-prey interactions	2.1	5.4
Parental Care	4.2	3.8
Life history	12.5	7.8
Host-parasite interactions	2	6.1
Population structure	1.3	6.6
Sex ratios	1.3	1.4
Behavior	13.6	3.3
Conservation	1.2	1.2
Foraging	4.2	4.7
Environmental and habitat differences	0	7.3
Other	0	2.1

As is traditionally the case at ISBE meetings, birds were the most well represented study organisms in presentations at Lund. However, the overall percentage of bird talks has fallen by 10% since the Cornell meeting. This decline has been offset by an almost identical increase in studies on insects. Mammals and fishes were the next most popular study organisms and a long way last, were amphibians and lizards (Table 2). Whilst it is difficult to see birds being toppled from their perch as the top animal group to study, there is room for more studies on anurans, reptiles, mammals and fishes. I also think that there is potential to see greater numbers of studies on behavior of micro-organisms.

Table 2: Percentage of empirical talks based on taxonomic group membership.

	2008	2012
Birds	48	37
Insects	17	26
Fish	12	15
Mammals	12	15
Reptiles and amphibians	3	5
Others	8	3

The plenary speakers were all top quality and I especially enjoyed the talks of Lars Chittka and Anna Qvarnstrom. Lars' talk was very interesting as there is much literature focusing on the qualitative differences in mental states that might be associated with larger brains. Yet, he showed that invertebrates have many similar cognitive and motor abilities as vertebrates despite their tiny brains. This raised the interesting question of what is the use of a big brain? Anna's talk concentrated on the often ignored fact that traits selected for male-male competition can also lead to speciation through many different routes. All of the talks were interesting and well attended. The high quality of the plenary talks also translated into the oral presentations.

There were 420 talks at this congress, which necessitated six concurrent sessions. Most of these sessions were held in the AF-Borgen building although one of the sessions was in the Palæstra, which was a couple of minutes walk from the main building. I did not get to see all of the talks that I wanted to attend. Moreover, I was impressed most of the presentations although from a personal perspective there were a few stand-outs. The talk by Daniela Canestrari was a highlight and very interesting putting brood parasitism into a new light. Another talk that stood out for me was that of Alexander Vail who examined the behavior of grouper recruiting moray eels in relation to the skill of the eel in obtaining food. However, there were many excellent talks and most were delivered expertly and with few technical glitches. However, I did see some sound glitches in a few sessions, which reduced one speaker to having to ad lib the calls her study species, which I think enlivened the talk. This is a good lesson as most of us will be affected by technical difficulties at some point while delivering a talk. Whilst these technical difficulties can be offputting, it is best to shrug, smile and continue irrespective of these difficulties.

There were also 366 poster presentations and again the standard was generally very high. The AF-Borgen building is old and so was not built with a view of it as a modern conference venue. Therefore, the posters were in many rooms and a few places were quite hard to find. However, the system of having three evenings to browse the posters with presenters staggered among nights did make for an easier time in the poster hall. However, the free beers were appreciated by most who attended the poster evenings.

In the middle of the week, came the traditional excursions. As was the case for most of the week, the weather was excellent and ideal for sight seeing. There were four official sight seeing options at the congress: bird watching at Falstebo, visiting the ale stones and glimmenguhus (a medieval castle), a guided tour of Lund, and cruising the wetlands at Kristianstad on a boat. I heard that all four activities were fun and that a good time was had by all. However, some people were heard to grumble that there was not enough time for bird watching in the bird watching tour, but for most bird watchers I know, no amount of time is

enough! The football tournament was also contested on Tuesday and Thursday evenings which for the first time removed the clash with the excursions.

The last session of the congress was split into two parts. First were the awards for posters and the Pitelka Prize. Anders Brodin was also rightly applauded for his organization of the congress and rewarded with many bottles of wine. Mark Hauber was also called upon to introduce and invite us to the next congress which will be hosted by Hunter College at the City University of New York. The final act of the academic proceedings was the Hamilton Lecture which this year was delivered by Baron Krebs of Wytham who would be better known to most people as Sir John Krebs. To say he is distinguished is an understatement. Prior to leaving academia to chair the British Food Standards Agency, for which he is better known among the wider public (in the United Kingdom at least), he left three key monuments in the field of behavioral ecology. He is most famous to us, perhaps, for coauthoring one of the best textbooks in our field, which has just entered its fourth iteration (Davies et al. 2012). He also co-edited another important volume, *Behavioural Ecology: An Evolutionary Approach*, which for a long time has been a staple of many undergraduate and graduate students' reading lists (Krebs & Davies 1997). Finally, he was also partly responsible for one of first and still best syntheses of foraging theory that has been published (Stephens & Krebs 1986). Although he achieved a great amount and was responsible for some of the classic studies that underpin our field, his talk was an easy stroll through some of his research highlights, presented in a light informal tone. It was like having your brain lightly massaged and a great way to end the conference after a week of trying to cram many tiny bites of information into our minds.

After all of the science the final act at the conference was the banquet. The location of the Luftkastellet was stunning and I joined the many people on the balcony taking photos of the horizon looking to Denmark as the sun set. Inside, the food and drinks were superb and there was enough to go around for everyone. Later, an arena was cleared and many inebriated professors and students alike, performed the great post conference lek ritual (otherwise known as the dance). It

is a great way for attendees to let off steam and for people to leave the conference on a high. Moreover, it is a great opportunity to see people in a new light as they sweat, thrust, and gyrate to the rhythm of the music.

Whilst I cannot write for everyone, I can say from my own experience that this conference was a great success and the lighthearted reservations I expressed at the beginning of this review quickly dissipated. Whilst Lund is not the cheapest place in the world, I found it compared favorably cost wise with other recent conference destinations such as Australia. The scientific program was good and reflected well, the contemporary research that is being undertaken by behavioral ecologists. It also brought home to me, what exciting times we are in and how lucky we all are to be studying behavioral ecology. One of the things that has amazed me attending these meetings is the rate at which new methods are being incorporated into research. There seems to be new things that I had not thought possible being done by researchers in our field. It will be really exciting to see what people are achieving in two years time when we all meet again in New York City. I will also be interested in seeing if Mark Hauber can deliver on his promise of having at least one A-list celebrity attending a social get-together at the conference. It promises to be an interesting and exciting meeting and I hope to see you all in the Big Apple!

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- Stephens DW, Krebs JR. 1986. *Foraging Theory*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

**Craig Barnett**

**Department of Life Science, Rikkyo University, Nishi-Ikebukuro, Tokyo, Japan**

**President****Gunilla Rosenqvist**

Department of Biology  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
Email: Gunilla.Rosenqvist@bio.ntnu.no

**Past-President****Kate Lessells**

NIOO-KNAW  
Centre for Terrestrial Ecology  
P.O. Box 40, 6666 ZG Heteren, The Netherlands  
Email: k.lessells@nioo.knaw.nl

**President-elect****Nina Wedell**

Centre for Ecology & Conservation  
Biosciences  
College of Life & Environmental Sciences  
University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus  
CORNWALL TR10 9EZ  
Email: N.Wedell@exeter.ac.uk

**Secretary****Robert Magrath**

School of Botany and Zoology  
Australian National University  
Canberra 0200, Australia  
Email: robert.magrath@anu.edu.au

**Treasurer****Walt Koenig**

Lab of Ornithology  
159 Sapsucker Woods Rd.  
Ithaca, NY 14850 USA  
Email: wdk4@cornell.edu

**Councillors****Dr Laura Roxana Torres Avilés**

Intituta de Ecologia  
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico  
04510 México  
Email: lrtorres@servidor.unam.mx

**Marta Manser**

Institute of Evolutionary Biology & Environmental Studies  
University of Zurich  
Winterthurerstrasse 190  
CH-8057 Zurich  
Email: marta.manser@ieu.uzh.ch

**Jutta Schneider**

Biozentrum Grindel  
University of Hamburg  
Martin-Luther-King Platz 3  
20146 Hamburg, Germany  
Email: jutta.schneider@uni-hamburg.de

**Bruce Lyon**

Earth & Marine Sciences A308  
University of California  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA  
Email: lyon@biology.ucsc.edu

## How to contribute to the newsletter

The ISBE Newsletter publishes Book Reviews, Conference and Workshop Reviews and Commentary Articles of interest to the International Society for Behavioral Ecology. The ISBE Newsletter will only consider work that is not already published or intended to be submitted for publication elsewhere.

**Book Reviews:** Reviews are generally solicited by the Editor as new books arrive at the office, and are deemed to be of interest to the society. Persons involved in the publishing of books who would like these to be considered for review in the Newsletter should contact the Editor and arrange for their publisher to forward a review copy to this office. Authors may submit a list of possible reviewers. Alternately, members who wish to review a particular text should contact the Editor. The Editor will provide reviewers with instructions and a style sheet. Reviews are typically 1500-2000 Words.

**Workshop/Conference Reviews:** Workshop and/or Conference reviews should be prepared in one of the following two formats. **Brief synopses** (max 1500 words) and **Longer reports** (max 3000 words) Graduate students and postdocs are strongly encouraged to consider contributing to writing these reports.

**Cartoons:** Cartoonists and other artists are encouraged to submit artwork, either in hardcopy, or as TIFF or high resolution (300 dpi) GIF files. All cartoons published in the newsletter will be credited to the illustrator, and will appear on the Newsletter's website ([www.behavecol.com](http://www.behavecol.com)).

### **International Ornithological Congress of Southeast Asia**

27-29 November 2012 Phuket, Thailand  
<http://harrison-institute.org/IOCSEA/index.html>

### **Australian Entomology Society & Australasian Arachnological Society - 2012 Meeting**

25-28 November 2012, Hobart, Australia  
<http://www.austentsoc.org.au/>

### **ASAB Winter Meeting: "Cognition in the Wild"**

6-7 December, 2012, London UK  
<http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk/>

### **Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology**

3-7 January, 2013, San Francisco, USA  
<http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2013/>

### **1st Argentine Congress on Behavioral Biology**

15-17 April, 2013, Mar del Plata, Argentina  
<http://www.grieta.org.ar/comporta/>

### **6th Snake Ecology Group Meeting**

21-23 June 2013, Okinawa, Japan  
[gappa@ethol.zool.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:gappa@ethol.zool.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

### **19th International Congress of Arachnology**

23-28 June 2013, Kenting National Park, Taiwan  
<http://araneae.thu.edu.tw/ica2013/welcome>

### **50th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society**

28 July-1 August 2013, Boulder, Colorado, USA  
<http://animalbehaviorsociety.org/>

### **Third International Conference on Invertebrate Vision**

1-8 August 2013, Bäckaskog Castle, Sweden  
<http://www.iciv.se/>

### **IEC/ASAB Summer meeting**

4-8 August 2013, Newcastle Gateshead, UK  
<http://iec2013.com/>

### **11th International Mammalogical Congress**

11 - 16 August 2013, Belfast, Ireland  
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/IMC11/>

### **XIV Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology**

19-24 August 2013, Lisboa, Portugal  
<http://www.eseb2013.com/>

### **9th Conference of the European Ornithologists' Union**

28-31 August 2013, University of East Anglia, UK  
<http://www.norwich.eounion.org>

### **Ento '13 - "The evolution of insect mating systems: 30 years of Thornhill and Alcock"**

4-6 September 2013, University of St Andrews, Scotland  
<http://www.royensoc.co.uk/meetings>

### **37th Annual Meeting of the Waterbird Society**

24-29 September 2013, Wilhelmshaven, Germany  
[www.waterbirds.org](http://www.waterbirds.org)

....and beyond 2013

### **XVII IUSSI International Congress**

13-18 July 2014, Cairns, Australia  
<http://www.iussi.org/>

### **11th International Congress of Neuroethology**

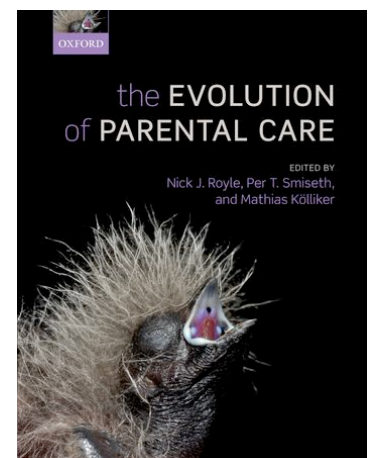
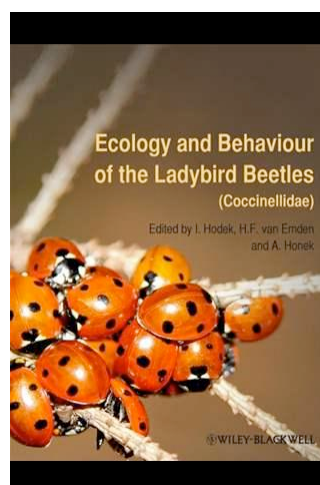
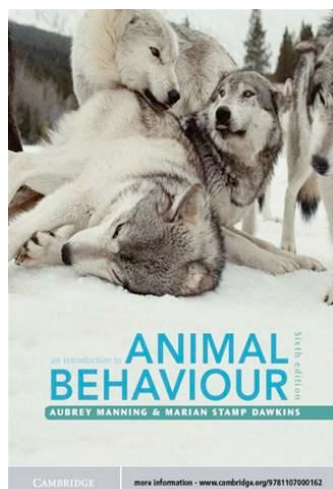
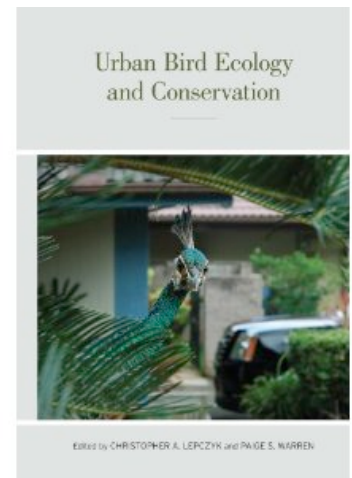
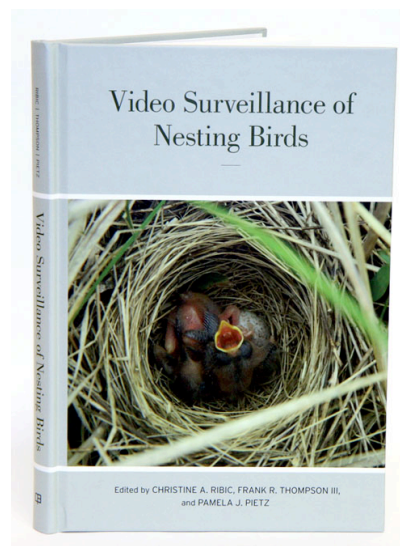
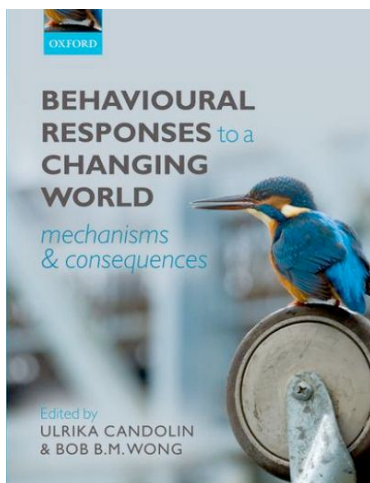
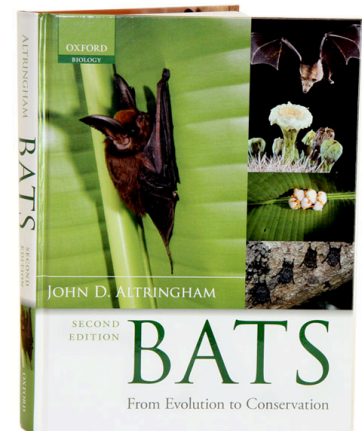
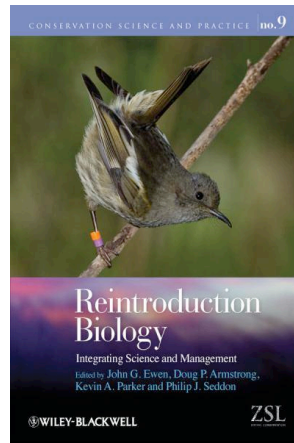
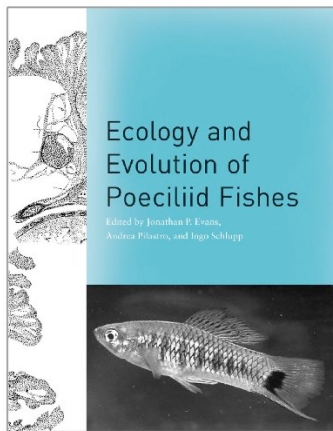
28 July-2 August, Sapporo, Japan  
<http://icn2014.wordpress.com/>

### **Xth European Congress of Entomology**

3-8 August, 2014, York, UK  
<http://www.royensoc.co.uk/meetings>

### **ISBE2014**

31 July-4 August, New York, USA  
<http://cabi.hunter.cuny.edu>



If you are interested in receiving AND reviewing these books, please email me (marie.herberstein@mq.edu.au). The due date for the review is 01 February 2013.