



## Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach

*John Alcock*

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This new edition of *Animal Behavior* has been thoroughly rewritten with coverage of much recent work in animal behavior. The scope of the changes for the tenth edition, however, is much more all-encompassing than that of past revisions. Thoughtful suggestions from many readers inspired a major reorganization of the material, such that the new book presents the central concepts of animal behavior in a different sequence from prior editions:

**The Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection.** Instead of introducing the concept of proximate and ultimate causation and then focusing heavily on the proximate mechanisms of behavior in the early chapters, this edition focuses first on the evolutionary basis of behavior. Chapter 1 presents the concept of a Darwinian puzzle, a trait that exists even though it seems to reduce the reproductive success of individuals, in which case it should have been eliminated by natural selection. The emphasis on Darwinian puzzles continues, with an in-depth discussion of the evolution of altruism in Chapter 2 (versus Chapter 14) and subsequent exploration of the adaptive value of a broad range of traits from anti-predator activities to reproductive and parental behaviors.

**The Distinction between Proximate and Ultimate Causation in Biology.** Once the major findings of behavioral ecology have been examined, the book turns its attention to the proximate mechanisms underlying animal behavior. Here, too, the emphasis remains on the evolutionary puzzles provided by particular developmental and neurophysiological mechanisms. This approach provides continuity with earlier chapters while helping readers see the connections between adaptive behaviors and the adaptive internal systems that make those behaviors possible.

**The Procedures That Scientists Use to Test Their Tentative Explanations for Such Things as Darwinian Puzzles.** Throughout, the text shows how researchers use scientific logic to study the underlying mechanisms and the evolutionary bases of behavior. The emphasis is on how evolutionary theory unifies the various subdisciplines within animal behavior. These points are highlighted again in the final chapter on human behavior, with its treatment of the proximate and ultimate causes of language and the evolution of mate choice in our species.

Enduring features of prior editions remain evident in this new book: the clear, engaging writing style; text beautifully illustrated with many new photographs; references to a large number of new scientific articles; and a substantial number of new and old discussion questions embedded in the text.

## For Instructors

Available to qualified adopters of *Animal Behavior*, the Tenth Edition **Instructor's Resource Library** contains a variety of teaching and laboratory resources. The IRL includes the following:

**Textbook Figures & Tables** All of the textbook's figures (art and photographs) and tables are provided in both JPEG (high- and low-resolution) and PowerPoint formats. All of the images have been formatted and optimized for excellent projection quality.

**Animal Behavior Video Collection** This collection of video segments brings to life many of the specific

behaviors discussed in the textbook. Compiled from the collection of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library and from many individual researchers, these clips are great for use in class. The segments are short and easy to incorporate into lectures. All segments are provided as QuickTime movies and in ready-to-use PowerPoint presentations.

### ***Teaching Animal Behavior An Instructor's Manual to Accompany Animal Behavior , Tenth Edition***

*Teaching Animal Behavior* offers instructors several resources to facilitate the preparation of lectures, quizzes, and exams. Contents include:

- \* Answers to the discussion questions presented in the textbook
- \* Sample quiz questions and answers
- \* Sample exam questions and answers
- \* Descriptions to accompany the collection of animal behavior videos
- \* A listing of films on animal behavior for use in the classroom

### **Learning the Skills of Research: Animal Behavior Exercises in the Laboratory and Field**

Edited by Elizabeth M. Jakob and Margaret Hodge

Students learn best about the process of science by carrying out projects from start to finish. Animal behavior laboratory classes are particularly well-suited for independent student research, as high-quality projects can be conducted with simple materials and in a variety of environments. The exercises in this electronic lab manual are geared to helping students learn about all stages of the scientific process: hypothesis development, observing and quantifying animal behavior, statistical analysis, and data presentation. Additional exercises allow the students to practice these skills, with topics ranging from habitat selection in isopods to human navigation. Both student and instructor documentation is provided. Data sheets and other supplementary material are offered in editable formats that instructors can modify as desired.

### **Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach Details**

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## **From Reader Review Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach for online ebook**

### **Jurij Fedorov says**

A hard read but worth it. Easy to understand science.

Pro:

This book is filled with information about behaviour. All kind of animals are in it and it really presents all the basics of all behaviour traits - in an easy to understand way with many colored pictures and graphs. Still this is not ALL behaviour a lot of anecdotes and observations will be found in other books about animals - but none so grand.

Con:

It is a textbook. It has no humor, nearly no personal stories and no clever wordplays or people stories. It is bare science and observations. At the end it gets boring. Few can just sit at home and read 454 pages of sciensi day after day. It is very exiting but don't read more than 30 pages a day. And skip the questions. They make the book longer and are not even answered by the author. So you never know if you are correct in your assumptions. These are made for a the course about it and should have not been in the book! There should be an interactive website for these things. The layman can easily read this book. But it is not written in an exiting way like Dawkins stories.

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### **Steven Peterson says**

Now dated, this edition represents one of the finest texts in the study of animal behavior at the time of its publication. The evolutionary bases of animal behavior or portrayed quite well; the writing style was fine for a textbook and was accessible to students. All in all, a good text in its day.

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### **Amy says**

I assigned this book for my Animal Behavior classes last year. It's really pretty well-done. Lots of good figures. I didn't realize it at the time, but Alcock's approach to all of the chapters is very gene-centered. I agree with this approach, but at the same time I think it might have worked better to present a more balanced approach for the purposes of an undergraduate textbook.

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### **India Johnson says**

This is what I feel a textbook should be. There are numerous illustrations and graphs to help visualize information. There are also critical thinking questions throughout. Another aspect of this book that I don't commonly see are citations to specific studies and further reading recommendations at the end of each chapter. This book is also easy to read in the sense that font type and word spacing are conducive to keeping track of where you are. This textbook is very nicely formatted on the whole and encourages outside research

and the formation of informed opinions/viewpoints outside of what is taught in the book.

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### **Yanick Punter says**

Read the tenth edition. It started off rather boring but as the book progressed the chapters become more interesting. Of course that is because the introductory chapters came with information I was already largely familiar with. Excellent book, the suggested readings will keep me occupied.

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### **Dr Brown says**

Best biology book I've ever seen. I really enjoyed reading it. The evolutionary/ethological approach is the only sensible way of explaining (and not merely describing) animal behavior. Plenty of sections on Human Behavior makes this book a prerequisite even for Psychology scholars.

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### **Nathaniel says**

(Reviewing the 6th edition) Incredible book! Absolutely soul-stirring! Constant application of Tinbergen's questions throughout, so no one side of any behavior escapes examination. Examples could not be used more suitably than they are by Alcock, and the defense of sociobiology in the last chapter is icing on the 6th Ed. cake.

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### **Dark-Draco says**

This is not a light read, but something to delve into when you feel like stretching your mind. I found it really interesting. Each chapter explores certain behaviours displayed by different animals and discusses how these could have evolved over time. From mating and sexual behaviour, to finding homes and food, everything is covered here. The final chapter is really interesting, as it discusses human behaviour and the fact that we are not quite so removed from the rest of the animal kingdom as some would have us believe! Definitely recommended if you are interested in this subject.

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### **Scott says**

Fascinating insight into animal behavior from the "human" perspective...who knew ants could be so complex?

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### **Thannasset says**

So far so good--well written, accessible, very very tightly reasoned.

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### **Fredrick Danysh says**

Many issues are addressed in this work including the evolution of animals as well as genetics. The author believes that the species behaviors are developed over time and offers examples.

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### **Christine Brodsky says**

Excellent textbook on Animal Behavior. Alcock is informative, witty, and presents well-described case studies of the evolution of various behaviors. I loved this text (8th Ed) when I took Animal Behavior and I love it now when I'm teaching the course with the 10th edition (however, I do prefer the topic progression in the 8th rather than how it's presented in the 10th).

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### **Jessica Cavalli says**

This text was clear and concise without either over explaining or too briefly touching upon the main concepts and ideas presented. Alcock provided countless, helpful examples, graphs and diagrams that thoroughly explained the material and led to my further understanding of animal behavior. This textbook not only greatly guided me to my success in my animal behavior class, but also left with a newfound interest in animal behavioral studies.

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### **Victoria says**

3.5. Will update review later when I'm not drowning in finals.

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### **Nicky says**

As far as textbooks go, it was very good. There were plenty of color illustrations and pictures to get the information across. Which is helpful if you are a visual person, and in reality they were more the focus. I would actually read the text only to help explain a diagram or image. It is full of animal behavior experiments and teaches biological concepts through them. So it is very great about focusing on real world scenarios, then the theory and understanding of the biological mechanisms and how they work come after that. I loved the format. Some of the material was really challenging so this kind of approach made the whole subject much more... approachable! Ha.

Excellent book. I wish all biology courses were taught with this real-world-scenario-then-the-theory-coming-after approach.

It succeeds where other Biology texts fail--being conversational, easy to read through, and being full of intriguing information about behavior. I'd find myself trying to connect it to the way humans behave and really having some interesting ideas and pondering about the material. It is a fascinating subject and this text doesn't downplay that with cold stuffy writing.

