The Magpies The Ecology And Behaviour Of Black Billed And Yellow Billed Magpies

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this textbook helped to define the field of behavioural ecology in this fourth edition the text has been completely revised with new chapters and many new illustrations and full colour photographs the theme once again is the influence of natural selection on behaviour an animal s struggle to survive and reproduce by exploiting and competing for resources avoiding predators selecting mates and caring for offspring and how animal societies reflect both cooperation and conflict among individuals stuart a west has joined as a co author bringing his own perspectives and work on microbial systems into the book written in the same engaging and lucid style as the previous editions the authors explain the latest theoretical ideas using examples from micro organisms invertebrates and vertebrates there are boxed sections for some topics and marginal notes help guide the reader the book is essential reading for students of behavioural ecology animal behaviour and evolutionary biology key features long awaited new edition of a field defining textbook new chapters illustrations and colour photographs new co author focuses on the influence of natural selection on behavior and how animal societies reflect both cooperation and conflict among individuals the long awaited update to a classic in this field is now here presenting new directions in thinking and addressing burning questions richly informed by progress in many other disciplines such as sensory physiology genetics and evolutionary theory it marks the emergence of behavioural ecology as a fully fledged discipline this is a marvellous book written in a lucid style a must read for those in the field it is also a cornucopia of new thinking for anyone interested in evolution and behaviour manfred milinski nature 2012

it deals with both mechanistic questions e g

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the study of animal behaviour particularly from evolutionary and ecological viewpoints has been one of the major growing points in biology over the last 10 to 15 years the degree of quantitative rigour in theoretical observational and experimental approaches to behaviour has increased dramatically as more of the rapidly growing research literature be comes a basic requirement for students reading animal behaviour at undergraduate level there is a need for a readily comprehensible text covering all major aspects of behaviour study to accome pany their courses this book based on my first second and third year under graduate lectures at the university of no ttingham is designed to meet that requirement the book begins with a discussion of the physiological and anatomical bases of behaviour the relationship between nervous system structure and function and behaviour hormonal effects on behaviour biological clocks perceptual mechanisms and stimulus filtering this leads to a consideration in chapter 2 of how the animal integrates internal and external stimuli in making decisions about its behaviour and the way natural selection has shaped decision making processes and the organisation of motivation the first two chapters therefore deal with the instigation or causation of behaviour within the animal chapters 3 and 4 deal with developmental aspects of behaviour chapter 3 discusses behaviour genetics including the relationship between specific genes and behaviour the heritability of behaviour patterns the site of gene action in the body and the evolutionary consequences of a genetic basis to behaviour

this book is about video techniques not video technology to deal with the latter would be a thankless task as by the time the book was published it would be out of date given the rapid rate of development of video hardware however these technological advances do help to make it an exciting field as joe riley says in chapter 1 advances in video technology continually produce improvements in performance and reductions in both the cost and size of equipment so it seems certain that the technique will prove to be an even more useful resource in the future in selecting the topics and authors represented in this book i have tried to encompass most of the behavioural and ecological uses to which video is likely to be put over the next decade or

so i believe the book has captured the invaluable accumulated experience of the most active practitioners of the medium in this research area the idea for the book arose from two workshops on the use of video in ecology and behaviour held at southampton university uk during the 1980s three learned societies were involved in these meetings the association of applied biologists the british ecological society and the society for experimental biology

in the early years of this century a scottish doctor speculated on the evolutionary origin of human tears it seemed to him that with the increase in brain size and cognitive powers of our early ancestors many events in the struggle for existence would be just too distressing to observe how comforting then for the mother distraught by the sight of her child being devoured by a lion to cloud her vision with a flood of tears just so though if the good doctor had pondered further the following picture might have occurred to him comfortable in his speculative armchair and given him some pause for thought u vii viii series editor s foreword these stories do not of course get us very far in understanding the evolution of tears or anything else but they do remind us how far the study of behavioural adaptation has come this century this is in fact an exciting time for students of behaviour the last twenty years have seen a great advance in the theoretical armoury for tackling questions of behavioural evolution and adaptation and a parallel expansion in empirical studies particularly in the field the concepts of inclusive fitness and the evolutionarily stable strategy for example have helped to explain major features of social behaviour and have generated entirely new questions and predictions for the field worker to examine

this is a book about proximate mechanisms although some theoreti cal structure is used to introduce the subject the intent is to offer a comprehensive view of the mechanistic side of searching or foraging so as to balance the current emphasis of books on mathematical and functional models it seems to me that the pendulum needs to swing back to studies of how animals behave and that maybe in so doing models will become valuable again in driving

experimentation i have probably included too many examples in this book and some are even presented in great detail hopefully they provide a complete picture of the kind of animals used the experimental setup the kinds of data yielded and how the data were analysed i have done this in response to frustrating experiences of reading chapters in behavioural ecobgy books that provide insufficient information with which to evaluate an author s conclusion

covering all thirteen species of wild cattle ecology evolution and behaviour of wild cattle brings together the contributions of international leading experts on the biology evolution conservation status and management of the tribe bovini providing a comprehensive review of current knowledge on systematic anatomy and ecology of all wild cattle species chapters 1 to 8 a clear understanding of the conservation status of each species and the gaps in our current knowledge chapters 9 to 20 a number of case studies on conservation activities and an investigation of some of the most threatened and poorly understood species chapters 21 to 27 an invaluable resource for students researchers and professionals in behavioural ecology evolutionary biology and conservation biology this beautifully illustrated reference work reveals the extraordinary link between wild cattle and humans the benefits some of these species have brought us and their key roles in their natural ecosystems

it deals with both mechanistic questions e g

the first book length exploration of behavioral mechanisms in evolutionary ecology this ambitious volume illuminates long standing questions about cause and effect relations between an animal s behavior and its environment by focusing on biological mechanisms the sum of an animal s cognitive neural developmental and hormonal processes leading researchers demonstrate how the integrated study of animal physiology cognitive processes and

social interaction can yield an enriched understanding of behavior with studies of species ranging from insects to primates the contributors examine how various animals identify and use environmental resources and deal with ecological constraints as well as the roles of learning communication and cognitive aspects of social interaction in behavioral evolution taken together the chapters demonstrate how the study of internal mechanistic foundations of behavior in relation to their ecological and evolutionary contexts and outcomes provides valuable insight into such behaviors as predation mating and dispersal behavioral mechanisms in evolutionary ecology shows how a mechanistic approach unites various levels of biological organization to provide a broader understanding of the biological bases of behavioral evolution

a comprehensive analysis of the genetic ecological and phylogenetic aspects of social behaviour by experts in the field

conservation behavior assists the investigation of species endangerment associated with managing animals impacted by anthropogenic activities it employs a theoretical framework that examines the mechanisms development function and phylogeny of behavior variation in order to develop practical tools for preventing biodiversity loss and extinction developed from a symposium held at the international congress on conservation biology in 2011 this is the first book to offer an in depth logical framework that identifies three vital areas for understanding conservation behavior anthropogenic threats to wildlife conservation and management protocols and indicators of anthropogenic threats bridging the gap between behavioral ecology and conservation biology this volume ascertains key links between the fields explores the theoretical foundations of these linkages and connects them to practical wildlife management tools and concise applicable advice adopting a clear and structured approach throughout this book is a vital resource for graduate students academic researchers and wildlife managers

population dynamics and animal behaviour are two subjects which have developed almost independently despite widespread acceptance of their interrelationship this study aims to provide a framework for combining both fields of research it also considers a range of conservation issues

one of the most obvious changes that has occurred in behavioural biology in recent years is that it has become conspicuously a problem orientated subject moreover one of the most important consequences of this has been to stimulate interdisciplinary links between evolutionary biology zoology ecology anthro pology and psychology the time is now right to ask questions which relate whole animals in the contexts of their ecosystems with their social behaviour and development with their perceptual and cog nitive capacities these are new ways of looking at old problems but we are still at the stage of finding out what kinds of questions to ask for several years now i have been involved in teaching behavioural biology to students of psychology as well as zoology and have greatly appreciated the opportunity to relate material across many different subject areas it is the interfacing of prob lems as in ecology and psychology for example that makes more sense of topics such as intelligence responses to novelty feeding strategies and socialleaming the aim of the book is to provide readily digestible information in a number of areas of current interest in behavioural biology above all it is intended to provide a basis for discussion and further inquiry

first book to outline the fundamental principles of social evolution underlying the stunning diversity of social systems and behaviours

this text is designed for an advanced course in animal behaviour and features coverage that has been reorganized to promote a more logical framework for study all the essential elements of mechanisms ecology and evolution that students need to know are included in this edition which is organized around five key areas of study animal behaviour mechanisms of behaviour finding food and shelter social organization and mating systems

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