



Humans live in large and extensive societies and spend much of their time interacting socially. Likewise, most other animals also interact socially. Social behaviour is a source of constant fascination to biologists and psychologists of many disciplines; from behavioural ecology to comparative biology and sociobiology. The two major approaches used to study social behaviour involve either the mechanism of behaviour – where it has come from and how it has evolved – or the function of the behaviour studied. Featuring guest contributions from leaders in the field, this book presents both theoretical foundations and recent advances to give a truly multidisciplinary overview of social behaviour for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Topics include aggression, communication, group living, sexual behaviour and cooperative breeding. With examples ranging from bacteria to social mammals including humans, a variety of research tools are used, including candidate gene approaches, quantitative genetics, neuroendocrine studies, cost-benefit and phylogenetic analyses and evolutionary game theory

'An indispensable book for all behavioural biologists and their students.'

John Alcock, Arizona State University

'... provides the first extensive synthesis of research on animal social behaviour since the publication of E O Wilson's *Sociobiology* in 1974 ... It will be necessary reading for anyone involved in research in this area.'

Tim Clutton-Brock, University of Cambridge

'This is an excellent book ... *Social Behaviour* shows that not only does everybody have a social life, but that it is the social aspects of life that are the most interesting.'

Stuart West, University of Oxford

Cover illustration (front): displaying silver gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*) on the Freycinet coast of Tasmania (photographer: Alex Badyaev/tenbestphotos.com); (back): leaf cutter ants (*Acromyrmex coronatus*) – hitch-hiker ant riding on leaf being carried by line of ants, Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica (photographer: Roy Toft, @photolibary. All rights reserved); swirl of fish (©iStockphoto.com/ Tammy Peluso); a group of young sea horses (photographer: George Grall / Getty Images).

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