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**Internals** • General information for members (council reports, funding opportunities, etc.)

**Activities and Meetings** • This section provides information about meetings and activities of the society, and about other meetings for those interested in animal behaviour. Those who organize a meeting or for other reasons would like to highlight an upcoming meeting should contact the secretary prior to deadline for the next Etho News. Given the numbers of different meetings, not all will be automatically included in Etho News.

**Portrait** • In short articles of diverse formats (Biography, Interview, Laudation) members can discuss scientists and their work in the contexts of promotion, special honours or retirement.

**Events** • In this category members can introduce scheduled projects and report about events (e.g. meetings) that already took place.

**Books** • In this section new publications are introduced that are of interest to those interested in animal behavior. If you would like to draw attention to a book or wrote book, please send a short book review; up to one page is sufficient. Please include additional information such as title, author, publisher, price and further general information.

**Research Update** • This section is particularly relevant for young members of the society. You have the opportunity to present an abstract of your bachelor, masters, or PhD thesis or other research activities. Please remember that at least one person involved must be a member of the Ethological society (so either the student or one of the advisors). Summaries should fit on one page and should be submitted **WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL FORMAT**. Please provide information in the following order:

Title

Your name

Your email

Type of work supervised by <name of supervisor(s)>, Institutional address;

Text, followed by references (if adequate) and respective internet links.

**Discussion, Perspectives, Letters to the Secretary** • This section offers space for suggestions, criticism and thought-provoking ideas and visions that may still be callow. Short and to the point they should initiate discussion between the members (maximum of 2 pages).

**Editorial Deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Please send your contributions as e-mail attachments (.doc or .rtf; not as pdf!) to: [silkip@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:silkip@zedat.fu-berlin.de)**

**Please check attachments for macro viruses before sending!!!**

## News from the Council

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### A note from the President

Dear members of the Ethologische Gesellschaft,

In January, Thomas Bugnyar will take over the presidency of the Ethologische Gesellschaft with his new council team. This transition in our council affords me with an opportunity to briefly reflect upon the last four years, and to thank the members of the outgoing council for their hard work for the society.

When I took over the presidency from Redouan Bsahry in 2013, the society was in good shape. Nonetheless, the council implemented a couple of reforms worth summarizing in retrospect. First, the archives of the society are now digitized and parked in some cloud, so that I don't have to deliver a car full of lever arch files to Vienna (I still received such a nuptial gift from my predecessors). Second, the composition of the extended council, as well as the rules for membership and duration of a term, have been revised and implemented. I am particularly happy about the fact that our society now also has two student members on the extended council. Third, to further increase the attractiveness of the topical meetings of the society, we implemented (the Eberhard Gwinner) prizes for the best student presentation and poster. Finally, the society's web page has been completely renewed and, as the younger members may attest, news about our society are now also shared on Twitter.

Because membership numbers and our finances have been stable, and our topical meetings have been highly successful over the past four years as well, I am happy to pass the baton to Thomas and his team.

Last but not least, however, I want to thank Sylvia Kaiser, Silke Kipper, Oliver Schülke and Elke Scheibler for the effective, professional and altruistic ways in which they have served on council with me.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next topical meeting in Bonn, and I wish all of you the very best for the new year.

Peter Kappeler  
President

## A note from the Secretary

Dear members of the Ethologische Gesellschaft,

We are still (more or less) at the beginning of the year, so it's time for best wishes for a peaceful, insightful and happy new year for all of you. As Peter Kappeler, the leaving president has pointed out, this issue is marking the transition between two councils. I would like to express my thanks to Silvia Kaiser and Peter Kappeler for their altruistic and hard work for the society as manager and president, respectively!

You will find this issue a little less 'voluminous' than the preceding ones. Several reports from studies funded by our society are close to being finished – but final results are not yet ready. I'm convinced we will read about these studies in the summer issue of EthoNews.

Also, don't forget to encourage your students to send abstracts of their theses! And think about contributing yourself to the EthoNews with opinion papers, book reviews, conference reports, portraits of people from our field – and whatever else at fits with the aims of our society and may be of interest to our members.

I hope to meet many of you at the next Topical meeting in February in Bonn(see page 16)! Please also spread the word about the next Graduate meeting supported by our society in Celle (see page 17 for details). In summer, a next chance to meet will be at the joined IEC/ASAB summer meeting in Estoril/Portugal (see page 18).

Best wishes,  
Silke Kipper

## The new council

The new council elected during the General Assembly in Göttingen 2016:

Prof. Dr. Thomas Bugnyar (President)  
Dr. Claudia Fichtel (Vice-President)  
Dr. Helene Richter (Manager)  
Dr. Oliver Schülke (Treasurer)  
Dr. Silke Kipper (Secretary)



*The former and actual council of the Ethologische Gesellschaft during the ECBB 2016 in Vienna: Silke Kipper (Secretary), Peter Kappeler (retired President), Claudia Fichtel (Vice President), Sylvia Kaiser (retired Manager), Thomas Bugnyar (President), Helene Richter (Manager), Oliver Schülke (Treasurer).*

The extended council now consists of Prof. Dr. Peter Kappeler (retired president), Prof. Dr. Jutta Schneider, Miriam Sima (student member), Manon Schweinfurth (student member), Dr. Wiebke Schütt, Dr. Joachim Frommen, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Goymann.

## Research Update

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### Bachelor and Master theses

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#### **LONG ROUTE, BIG BARRIERS: STOP-OVER BEHAVIOUR OF MIGRATORY BIRDS ON A MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND**

**Elisavet Zagkle**

elisavet.env@hotmail.com

Master thesis, supervised by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Goymann (Max-Planck Institute for Ornithology, Seewiesen) in collaboration with Dr. Christos Barboutis (Anitkythira Bird Observatory Station, Hellenic Ornithological Society, Athens)

**Thesis was funded by a young investigators grant of the Ethologische Gesellschaft**

Billions of long-distance migratory birds cross thousands of kilometres twice a year to reach their destinations. Most of the avian migration time is spent at stop-over habitats where birds refuel, rest or avoid adverse weather conditions. During their stop-over, migrants have to make decisions for minimizing their energy and time expenditures and mortality risks. Stop-over decisions determine overall migration performance and success. Many internal factors might influence stop-over behaviour of birds, such as species, age and size, or external factors such as the extent of ecological barriers and weather conditions. For this study, I estimated stop-over behaviour of spring migrants on an island after having crossed two large ecological barriers, the Sahara desert and the Mediterranean Sea. The main aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between refuelling and stop-over duration and the possible intrinsic or extrinsic factors that could influence stop-over duration.

To do that, I analyzed capture-recapture data collected on Antikythira Island in Greece. The Antikythira Bird Observatory, a bird ringing station, is run by the Hellenic Ornithological Society and the Hellenic Bird Ringing Centre every spring and autumn since 2007. During spring 2016, I took body mass and fat/muscle measurements from birds that were captured at least twice and for the analysis I included previous data collected at the observatory from 2007-2015. The final dataset included first capture and last recapture recordings from 9 species from 10 spring seasons. From these data, I estimated fuel deposition rate (FDR) and minimum stop-over duration for thousands of individuals.

Most of the birds (77%) that arrived in Antikythira were considered lean with very low energy stores. Birds increased their average body weight during stop-over. Four species (nightingales, redstarts, garden warblers and great reed warblers) behaved according to the time-minimizing strategy, indicated by a positive correlation between departure fuel load and fuel deposition rate. Previous

work established that time-minimization is of primary importance to spring migrants. However, the other 5 species, namely spotted flycatchers, european pied flycatchers, woodchat shrikes and wedge warblers behaved according to the energy-minimization strategy. Spring migrants landing on Antikythira Island have just crossed the Mediterranean sea, an area without resting and refuelling opportunities. After crossing an ecological barrier, Antikythira might not be a sufficient refuelling stop-over site and these birds seem to replenish their energy reserves only enough to reach their next available stop-over site. Regarding the factors that could potentially affect their stop-over behaviour, results showed that intrinsic factors such as size, sex and age affected body mass change differently for each species. For instance, large sized and juvenile redstarts increased their body weight more than small sized and adult individuals. In woodchat shrikes, large sized individuals and males gained more weight than smaller sized individuals and females. External weather conditions, such as wind and cloud coverage seemed not to affect stop-over decisions. Birds on Anitkythira did not delay their migration due to adverse weather conditions, despite the high proportion of north winds, which can significantly decrease migration speed. Undoubtedly, weather conditions affect speed of migration, but from these findings it is rather unclear, if they affect stop-over behaviour and decisions. Thus, direct observations and radio-telemetry is required to relate stop-over behaviour and weather conditions.



Acknowledgments: I thank the Ethologische Gesellschaft e.V. for a research grant to support field work during the spring season 2016. Antikythira Bird Observatory Station (ABO) [supports research in Life Sciences studies, conducted by third parties within its operation area](#). For participating in ringing activities, please visit the site <http://blogs.ornithologiki.gr/osa/> or contact with Dr. Christos Barboutis, email: [cbarboutis@ornithologiki.gr](mailto:cbarboutis@ornithologiki.gr).

## PROBLEM SOLVING AND TOOL USE IN RAVENS AND CARRION CROWS

**Theresa M.E. Matzinger**

Tmatzing@gmx.at

Master Thesis, supervised by Alice Auersperg and Thomas Bugnyar, Department of Cognitive Biology, University of Vienna, Austria.

Innovative and flexible tool use as well as other technical problem solving skills are frequently regarded as indicators of advanced cognitive abilities because they suggest technical intelligence and causal reasoning. However, this assumed connection of problem solving and causal reasoning is not yet fully resolved.

The present study seeks to empirically investigate this supposed relationship by studying technical problem solving and tool use in common ravens (*Corvus corax*) and carrion crows (*Corvus corone*). Tool use has hardly been reported for these two species in the wild. Therefore, if ravens and carrion crows can solve tool related problems, this might suggest that tool use abilities result from domain-general cognitive capacities rather than from domain-specific cognitive skills that have evolved for tool use per se.

At first, the study examined if captive ravens and crows innovatively and flexibly used stone tools to solve a technical problem solving task. For this purpose, we tested if the birds spontaneously dropped stones through an open tube into a transparent box causing a platform to collapse and gaining a food reward. Thereafter, we investigated how different kinds of pre-experience with the functional characteristics of the box influenced the subjects' stone dropping performance. Therefore, one test group could release the platform by directly pushing it down from above through a shortened tube with the beak. Another test group received experience in collapsing the platform by pulling a string from below. Thereafter, the birds' stone-dropping performance was re-tested. In a third step, we examined if the birds made a transfer between different tools and could use sticks instead of stones to collapse the platform.

The results showed that four out of eight crows and one out of ten ravens used stone tools without having ever applied them in experimental settings before. The remaining crows could use the experience of both pushing and pulling to make a transfer to dropping stones, which implies that they had learned something about the respective physical properties of the box. In contrast, the remaining ravens were neither successful in pushing nor in pulling the platform down, even after extensive possibilities to explore the box. All birds that had been successful with the stones also attempted to insert sticks into the tube. For some test conditions, the experiment revealed motivational differences between the ravens and crows, which suggest that the ravens rather tried to solve technical tasks with physical force, whereas the crows rather tended to apply the tools.

The study shows that both ravens and crows can spontaneously drop stone tools into an apparatus. Furthermore, it indicates that some of the crows may have some appreciation of causalities underlying the task, which supports the assumption that tool use in the wild is no prerequisite for an advanced technical intelligence and physical cognition.

## **SONG PATTERNS AND TERRITORIES OF WHINCHATS (*SAXICOLA RUBETRA*) AT MURNAUER MOOS (BAVARIA, GERMANY)**

**Philipp Heiser**

Bachelor thesis conducted at Wissenschaftszentrum Weihenstephan, Technische Universität München, supervised by Silke Kipper

Whinchats are among the many song bird species with an alarmingly rapid decline in breeding pairs in most areas. So far, only little is known about the species' song and breeding ecology. In my bachelor thesis I conducted a pilot study of Whinchats in the Murnauer Moos in order to pave the way for future studies on ecophysiology and behavioural ecology of the species. The aim was to map territories and record song in order to provide a first quantitative characterization of the song repertoire.

To map breeding territories of Whinchats, I systematically explored certain areas of the Murnauer Moos between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> 2016, mostly during early morning, which was apparently the most active phase of birds. The highest number of birds was observed between May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup>. All in all, I was able to locate 26 territories.

Recordings of birds were conducted with a hand-held Rode directional microphone connected to a H4n Zoom digital recorder. I was able to obtain 19 recordings of sufficient quality and for the analysis (at least 11 successive songs; mean 27 songs). Recordings were analyzed using the song using the acoustic software Avisoft SasLab Pro (R. Specht, Berlin). A total of 525 songs was compared by visual cues and assigned to song types (24 song types). The number of different song types was in each recording lower as the number of songs analysed (i.e., birds repeated song types). The repertoire size is considered medium compared to other song birds (mean 11; range 7-16 songs). Most interestingly, a number of song types were found on several recordings, suggesting that birds share parts of their repertoires. The most common song types were found on all recordings (maybe being 'universal' in this population, whereas only 2 of the song types were only found on one recording each). These results invite further analyses for example on differences in the song quality between males and on the use of song in male-male interactions. To summarize, I would suggest that the species is as well as the study site is well-suited to study the behaviour of this species.

## Activities and Meetings

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### Reports from conferences and meetings

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#### 8. European Conference on Behavioural Biology (ECBB) in Vienna, Austria

The 8<sup>th</sup> ECBB meeting took place in the mid of summer, from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July in Vienna, Austria. More than 400 participants came together for four days of scientific as well as social exchange.

The Scientific committee did a very good job in putting together an interesting and diverse program and the organizers from University Vienna created a warm, welcoming atmosphere at the conference venue at the campus of the University of Vienna.

Recent research and (sometimes intensively discussed) concepts and methods in behavioural biology were presented in 16 symposia, covering a wide range of topics from cognition to communication, from mechanisms of behaviour to selection pressures. Some symposia focused on specific taxa (such as fish) or advances in methods (such as biologging) or interdisciplinary aspects (such as the interplay between behavior and proteomics). An extraordinarily interesting symposium on Citizen Science is discussed in a separate contribution (see below). One focal area was certainly the study of all aspects of animal cognition, which shouldn't surprise considering the research focus of the hosting groups.

Several plenaries allowed fascinating insights into long-term studies run on non-model organisms of very different taxa. From our society's perspective, a highlight was the awarding ceremony of the Tinbergen-Prize 2016 to Dr. Alexander Kotrschal.

Though the conference schedule was densely packed with plenaries, talks and poster sessions, there was still time left to socialize during well-organized coffee breaks and lunches. The social highlight of the conference was undoubtedly the Gala dinner at the Town hall of Vienna. Participants were warmly welcomed in the amazing old assembly room and experienced a fantastic evening!

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this meeting!

Silke Kipper, TU München



Conference impressions: scientific and social events. Fotos: Silke Kipper



The fantastic team of organizers and helpers from University Vienna.  
Foto: Alexandru Munteanu.

Many more photos from the conference can be found here:  
<http://alexandrumunteanu.pixieset.com/ecbb2016/>

## **Symposium ‘Citizen Science and Behavioural Biology: between challenges and real chances’ at the 8. European Conference on Behavioural Biology, Vienna (Austria)**

<https://www.ecbb2016-vienna.com/symposia/citizen-science-and-behavioural-biology-between-challenges-and-real-chances/>

Citizen science (CS) has evolved over the past decades as a working method involving the active participation of interested amateurs at different stages of scientific projects in a wide range of disciplines by e.g. reporting observations, taking measurements or analysing data. The use of advanced technology, such as apps or social media allow citizen-science projects to build large volunteer networks, which are useful to scientists to accomplish tasks otherwise too expensive or time consuming. The participation of amateurs in scientific projects contributes to raising new questions and promotes a new scientific culture, which may have long-lasting effects on the society.

At the 8th European Conference on Behavioural Biology, held in Vienna (Austria) from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2016, we conceptualised and organised a Symposium entitled “Citizen Science and Behavioural Biology: between challenges and real chances” in collaboration with the Core facility KLF of the University of Vienna (Didone Frigerio) and the Department of Evolutionary Ecology of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife research in Berlin (Sophia Kimmig) to explore the potentials of citizen science in behavioural biology. Financial support was kindly provided by the Vienna Business Agency. Aims of the symposium were to gain insights into the added value of the engagement of citizens in behavioural biology research and to discuss the value of integrating educational aspects into citizen science along with its challenges and limits.

The Symposium’s first keynote speaker was Anett Richter (German Centre for Environmental Research, UfZ, and German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, Halle-Jena-Leipzig, iDiv). Her talk provided insights into the development of CS in life sciences and reflected on its added value for science and society. In her presentation Anett Richter pointed out the variety of citizens’ contributions to science in a historical and current setting, highlighted the innovative potential of CS for science and society based on examples and finally inspired the audiences to become part of the CS movement, that is currently underway - nationally and internationally.

Silvia Winter (Institute for Integrative Nature Conservation, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU, Vienna) presented results on her ongoing research on biodiversity in backyards that is conducted in collaboration with pupils and lay people. She reflected in particular on the challenges and chances involving pupils in CS and concluded that citizens can easily observe wildlife in their (own) gardens, while biologists may not get access to these sites. The CS project “Nature in your backyard - citizen science for schools” joins scientists, NGOs and government departments with 16 Austrian schools and relates presence and relative abundance of a wild animals’ set (from hedgehogs to birds and butterflies) to garden structure and management as well as to the surrounding land use. Results show that the variety of animal groups was attractive for pupils but challenging for ensuring data reliability, especially regarding identification skills of bird and butterfly species. Children from primary schools had the highest intrinsic motivation and collected most data. However, teachers’ dedication to take part in the project had a larger influence on data output and quality than school type or pupils’ age.

Similar results were obtained by Didone Frigerio when involving pupils in the long term behavioural monitoring of two avian species, the highly social and long-lived greylag goose and the critically endangered Northern bald ibis. Her study focused on the children's capability of monitoring goose behaviour in a reliable and standardized way. Their reliability was tested by comparing their analyses of video sequences with those of a group of behavioural biologists as control. No significant differences were detected in number of correct observations between the two groups. These results are encouraging and promote long and short term benefits for close collaborations between pupils and scientists.

A further contribution to the symposium was made by Lucie Diblikova from the Department of Ecology of the Faculty of Science of the Charles University Prague in the Czech Republic. The presented project aimed at mapping the distribution of dialects of the yellowhammer in Czech Republic. This avian species is a useful candidate for such a study, because 1) it has a simple and characteristic song that can be easily recognized, 2) no specialized equipment is needed to record the song in a quality sufficiently good for dialect identification, and 3) the singing period of the species is very long. The project was launched in 2011 and during the past four years more than 160 people joined it. They provided the scientists with more than 4000 recordings covering most of the country. Quality feedback to the data collectors and promotion were essential for the success of the project. It paid off to involve a gratification system that was introduced in the third and fourth year of the project to motivate volunteers to collect data in less covered regions.

A quite intriguing talk was given by Joerg Melzheimer from the Department Evolutionary Ecology of the IZW on the mitigation of the conflict between farmers and cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in Namibia. This was an excellent example for the dialogue between CS and stakeholder as an important component for conservation. For projects addressing human-wildlife conflicts, it is important to develop first close relationships with the stakeholders affected by the conflicts. Involving them as citizen scientists can increase the chance to build a trustful bond to scientific projects. The study enabled the farmers to substantially reduce their livestock losses by adapting their livestock management to the spatial movements of cheetahs. This success motivated the farmers to take the unusual initiative to write a proposal for a new research project on leopards and to apply for funding at a local funding agency. Such an approach has strong potential to develop truly sustainable land use and conservation strategies and contribute to the minimization of human-wildlife conflicts.

Sophia Kimmig presented a study on how successful recruitment of participants for a CS project can be accomplished quickly and efficiently. She described how the collaboration between the IZW and the key players in the regional media landscape started and developed. In 2015, the public broadcasting corporation Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg started a media campaign on red foxes in the city of Berlin. This campaign was designed to operate as the starting point for a CS project of the IZW on this species and its adaptability to urban environments. Her results show that if suitable for specific research questions, CS has high potential for gaining geo-information that is not available in GIS data bases. However it is important to implement measures of data validation, by comparing citizen scientists' data with those collected with established methods.

In summary, the presentations and the follow up discussions showed the variety of existing projects and experiences in citizen science in the field of behavioural biology. Various projects investigate animal behaviour, species management and human-wildlife interactions. As an emerging

field in its own, the impacts of the engagement of citizen's, stakeholders and pupils such as learning and awareness raising are also assessed. However, it was also clear that manifold requirements and potentials of citizen science are still not fulfilled and need further development and exploration. Taken together, these symposium's contributions point at the future development of CS as an emerging field.



Impressions from citizen science projects presented during the symposium (Photos provided by the author)

Didone Frigerio, University of Vienna, Core facility KLF for Behaviour and Cognition

## Upcoming meetings

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### Meetings of the society

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#### 12<sup>th</sup> Topical meeting of the Ethologische Gesellschaft 22 – 24 February 2017, Bonn, Germany

The **12th Topical Meeting of the Ethological Society: “From Sensory Perception to Behaviour”** will be held from **February 22-24, 2017**, at the Institute of Zoology, Poppelsdorfer Schloss, in Bonn/Germany.

The topic of 2017 **“From Sensory Perception to Behaviour”** covers the key processes that connect the environment to the individual and vice versa. We have invited five international renowned keynote speakers, who will highlight the interrelationship of the senses and behaviour, which affects both the life of the individual as well as the evolution of behaviour and sensory systems:

- Alexander Kotrschal (Stockholm): *The costs and benefits of large brain size*
- Theresa Burt de Perera (Oxford): *Navigating in a three-dimensional world*
- Molly Cummings (Austin): *Conspicuous signals and crypsis*
- Volker Dürr (Bielefeld) *Locomotor Flexibility: Adaptive coordination and exploration in insect locomotion*
- Johan J. Bolhuis (Utrecht): *Twitter evolution: Birdsong, speech, and language*

The public evening lecture *‘Navigation unter extremen Bedingungen: wie Wüstennameisen möglichst schnell nach Hause finden’* will be given by Markus Knaden (Jena).

The meeting aims to promote the exchange of ideas, opinions and scientific developments in the behavioural sciences. We welcome presentations (talk or poster) from researchers with a broad interest in the study of behaviour. PhD and Master students and postdoctoral fellows are particularly encouraged to present their work. Prizes will be awarded for the best student talks and posters; including the prestigious Eberhard-Gwinner prizes!

For further information please visit [www.etho2017.de](http://www.etho2017.de)

If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@Etho2017.de](mailto:info@Etho2017.de)

**Graduate meeting Animal Behaviour 2017**  
**10 – 12 May 2017, Celle, Germany**

Graduate Meeting: Animal Behaviour 2017 of the Ethologische Gesellschaft and the Animal Behaviour Section of the German Zoological Society (DZG) from the 10.05. - 12.05.2017 at the Institute of Animal Welfare & Animal Husbandry Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut in Celle.



We invite advanced Master students, PhD students and early Post-docs to present and discuss their results with peers at the Joint Graduate Meeting of the Ethologische Gesellschaft and the Animal Behaviour Section of the German Zoological Society (DZG). For presenting your research you have the opportunity to give a talk (15+5 min) or present a poster of your project / results in an informal and friendly atmosphere. There will be no registration fees, but we will only accept active participation, i.e. either a talk or a poster presentation. The language of the conference is English. Registration with abstract (max. 250 words) should be send via Email to [tobias.krause@fli.de](mailto:tobias.krause@fli.de)

Deadline for registration and abstract submission is the 10th of April 2017.

Keynote lectures will be given by  
Prof. Dr. Marc Naguib (Wageningen University, NL),  
Dr. Lars Schrader (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut in Celle) &  
Dr. Wiebke Schuett (Hamburg University).

The meeting will take place from the afternoon of the 10th May 2017 (Wednesday) until 12th May 2017 midday at the at the Institute of Animal Welfare & Animal Husbandry, Celle (<https://www.fli.de/de/institute/institut-fuer-tierschutz-und-tierhaltung-itt/>).

The organizers:

E. Tobias Krause & Anissa Dudde  
(Institut für Tierschutz und Tierhaltung, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Dörnbergstr. 25-27, 29223 Celle)



Welcome to Behaviour 2017, a joint meeting of the 35th International Ethological Conference (IEC) and the 2017 Summer Meeting of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB), that will be held from July 30 to August 4, 2017, in Estoril, Portugal.

We are very pleased to host Behaviour2017 in the Lisbon area! Lisbon hosts internationally significant research centers in the fields of Neuroscience and Behavior and in short-distance from the city you will find nature areas with an inspiring fauna for the study of Behaviour; from a resident bottlenose dolphin population (which inspired the conference logo) to many birds, fish and invertebrates, currently studied by different local labs.

Behaviour2017 will gather international professionals, academia members and students from all fields of behavior research, such as behavioural ecology, neuroethology, behavioural endocrinology, behavioural genomics, animal cognition, evolutionary biology, Human ethology, applied ethology, conservation ethology, animal welfare, modelling and many others.

The conference program will offer an opening keynote address from Fran de Waal and five invited plenary talks from distinguished researchers covering topics such as the comparative study of emotions, behavioural genomics, animal cognition, Evo-devo of behavioural adaptations, and modeling behavior evolution. There will also be a program of symposia, selected from a call for symposia that will be launched in due time, that will span the entire range of behaviour research and that will help advance and foster scientific research, education and training, and applications. Finally the program will also include sessions of contributed talks and posters, which will enable all delegates to present their work and to have the opportunity to discuss the most recent developments in their research fields.

The call for abstracts is now open (<http://behaviour2017.org/call-for-abstracts/>)

Early-bird registrations for the meeting will go until February 28th.

For more information visit the website: <http://behaviour2017.org/>

If you are interested in sponsorship, exhibiting or advertising, please contact us at [behaviour2017@ispa.pt](mailto:behaviour2017@ispa.pt)

## Other meetings

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### 5<sup>th</sup> International Berlin Bat meeting: Are bats special? 10 – 12 March 2017, Berlin

With this conference, we would like to foster an exchange of ideas related to the question 'Are bats special?' We are especially keen on crossing disciplinary boundaries and hope that the discussion among ecologists, geneticists, morphologists, physiologists, immunologists, virologists and conservationists will advance the field substantially. We suggest several exciting topics as sessions or workshops. In addition, we have invited plenary speakers to review novel applications and exciting developments in their respective research areas.



The deadline for submission of workshop and session titles was 01 August 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [5thIBBM2017@izw-berlin.de](mailto:5thIBBM2017@izw-berlin.de) or check the web pages [www.izw-berlin.de](http://www.izw-berlin.de) (-> 'conference', -> 'International Berlin Bat Meeting') or [www.batlab.de](http://www.batlab.de).

### Workshop on sex-role evolution 14–17 April 2017, Tihany, Hungary

Workshop sponsored by:

#### **Sex-role evolution: integrating neural, behavioural and phylogenetic approaches**



The Workshop will take place between 6th and 9th April 2017 in Tihany, Hungary. The event will start with wine-

tasting on Thursday 6 April, will include 2 full days for research talks by top scientists, post-docs and students, and an optional excursion on Sunday to a hot spa (Hévíz) and the historic Festetics Palace in Keszthely.

Theoretical, experimental, phylogenetic and neuro-genomic studies of sexual selection, mating systems, pair-bonding, parenting and reproductive behaviours are rapidly advancing. The objectives of the workshop are to overview recent developments in sex roles and associated behaviours, and allow scientists and students to develop new ideas. The Workshop will take place at the guesthouse of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Lake Balaton.

The Workshop will focus on three main themes: (i) behavioural variations in sex roles and their ecological and demographic causes, (ii) phylogenetic analyses of sex role variations, and (iii) neuro-genomic regulation of sex roles. In each theme there will be seminars by invited speakers and contributions by young scientists, post-docs and PhD students. We will

also discuss the future of sex role research: what are the outstanding questions, what techniques will need to be developed, and how should the field as such develop. The combination of different research skills and variety of model organisms will provide outstanding opportunities to synthesize major research directions.

<http://congressline.hu/evolution2017/>

**7th International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare  
5-8 September 2017, Wageningen**

**7th International Conference on the Assessment of  
Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level**

5-8 September 2017, Wageningen, The Netherlands

WAFL is an international scientific conference on the assessment of animal welfare at farm and group level. It is organised once every three years, and following the successful meeting in Clermont-Ferrand in 2014, it will next be held on 5-8 September 2017 in Wageningen, The Netherlands.



The WAFL 2017 organisation is pleased to announce that the call for oral presentations, posters and workshop submissions for WAFL 2017 is now open, until February 17th, 2017.

<http://waf12017.com/>

**110. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Zoologischen Gesellschaft  
12–15 September 2017, Bielefeld**

The meeting will take place on the campus of the University of Bielefeld from September 12–15, 2017. More information will be available soon.

Organizers: Prof. Dr. Klaus Reinhold and his team from Neuro- and Behavioural Biology, Evolutionary Biology and Ecology



**ASAB Winter meeting, 7 – 8 December 2017, London, UK**

The 2017 ASAB Winter Meeting will be titled "Sexual selection: 30 years of testing the alternatives," and will be organised by Nina Wedell and David Shuker.



<http://www.asab.org/conferences/>

**27<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress  
, 19 – 26 August 2018, Vancouver, Canada**



INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS  
VANCOUVER, CANADA · AUGUST 19 - 26, 2018

CO-HOSTS



Vancouver is delighted to welcome ornithologists from around the world on behalf of the International Ornithologists' Union to the 27th International Ornithological Congress (IOCongress2018)! Considered the oldest and most prestigious of meetings for bird scientists, the Congress occurs every four years since first being held in Vienna, Austria, in 1884. Canada has hosted only once previously, Ottawa in 1986, and Vancouver will be the first time the Congress has been on the Pacific Coast of the Americas. The Congress has broad national endorsement, including from the City of Vancouver, the province of British Columbia, Environment Canada, Simon Fraser University, Artists for Conservation, Tourism Vancouver plus an array of scientific societies and conservation organizations.

Plenary speakers are: ANDREW COCKBURN, Australian National University, Australia

'Behavioural ecology of a cooperative breeder'; ROB FLEISCHER, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, USA, 'Bird pathogen interactions'; JENNIFER GILL, University of East Anglia, UK, 'Migratory birds in a changing world'; HENRIK MOURITSEN, AGNeurosensorik/Animal Navigation, University of Oldenburg, Germany, 'Sensing the magnetic field'; GABRIELLE NEVITT, Department of Neurobiology, Physiology and Behaviour, UC Davis, USA, 'Avian olfaction'; JUAN REBORDA, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, 'Evolutionary ecology of brood parasites'; PETER RYAN, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, South Africa, 'Seabird conversation'; REBECCA SAFRAN, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, 'Phenotypic variation, sexual selection and speciation'; LUCIA SEVERINGHAUS, IOC President; Biodiversity Research Centre, Taiwan 'Avian ecology', BEN SHELDON, The Edward Grey Institute, University of Oxford, UK, 'Social ecology of wild bird populations'.

## Grant and promotion opportunities for members

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### Grants awarded 2016

#### YOUNG INVESTIGATORS GRANT (MASTER THESIS)

**Xenia Cortés-Kühnast**, DPZ Göttingen, "Impact of social rank and sex on social learning in Lemur catta"

**Elisavet Zagkle**, LMU München und MPI f. Ornithologie Seewiesen, " Crossing the barriers: Fuel deposition rate and stopover duration of migratory birds on a stopover island "

#### RESEARCH GRANT

**Silke Voigt-Heucke**, FU Berlin, "The role of melatonin in bat migration"

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### Funding options - general

For further details about all grants and application forms see: <http://www.etho-ges.de/wordpress/research-and-conference-funding/>

### Niko-Tinbergen-award

The Ethologische Gesellschaft awards the Niko Tinbergen Prize every other year for outstanding post-doc level researchers in behavioural biology or closely related fields. The award entails:

1. A certificate stating the name of the candidate. The certificate is signed by the president of the society;
2. A cheque of 1,500 Euro which is donated by the journal Ethology.

The candidate should have been member of the Ethologische Gesellschaft for at least two years. Key papers must have been written in English and published in peer reviewed journals. In case of multiple authorships, the contributions of the candidate need to be stated in the nomination.

Any member of the Ethologische Gesellschaft is eligible to nominate candidates. A nomination needs to include a brief summary of the candidate's scientific achievements, a

curriculum vitae and a list of three outstanding publications. Nominations need to be sent to the manager of the Ethologische Gesellschaft. The committee in charge of judging applications consists of the council and extended council of the Ethologische Gesellschaft, but other members of the society may be asked to join the committee.

The deadline for the nomination of the next award is 31. December 2017. Award winners are asked to write a short summary of their research for the next Etho News.

### **Research funds – young investigators**

The goal of funding is to support

- Master thesis
- pilot studies for PhD-projects
- Applicants need to be actively involved in the project.

**Deadlines for submission are 31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>st</sup> September in each year.** Applications have to be sent by email to the manager (Sylvia Kaiser). The EG provides up to 500 Euro for master theses grants and up to 1000 Euro for PhD-pilot-projects.

### **Research funds - general**

The goal of funding is to support

- Particularly promising pilot studies or investigations at an early stage that would not normally be eligible to funding from governmental organizations or science foundations.

Applicants need to be actively involved in the project.

**Deadlines for submission are 31<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> July in each year.** Applications have to be sent by email to the manager (Helene Richter). The EG provides up to 2000 Euro per research project.

### **Workshops and graduate student meetings**

Organizers of the annual 'Topical meetings of the Ethologische Gesellschaft' will be supported with up to 1000 Euro; organizers of graduate student meetings in behavioural biology may apply for up to 500 Euro. **Deadlines for submission are 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> July in each year.** Applications have to be sent by email to the managing director (Helene Richter).

### **Grants for travel subsidies**

Members of EG without permanent income may apply for a contribution of up to 200 Euro for active participation (poster or talk) at the European meetings (ECBB) and for up to 100 Euro for the 'Topical meetings of the Ethologische Gesellschaft'. Applications should be sent to the manager (Helene Richter) at any time.

## Officers of the Ethologische Gesellschaft

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**Miscellaneous**

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**Welcome new members!**

We welcome the following new members who joined our society in the second half of 2016:

Christoph von Borell – Universität Göttingen

Sabine Martini – Universität Duisburg-Essen

Richard Bon – Université Toulouse

Pamela Flores Davila – MPI for Ornithology, Seewiesen

Oliver Lindecke – Institute for Zoo- and wildlife research Berlin

Pascal Malkemper - Universität Duisburg-Essen

Marlen Kücklich - MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig

Theodora Fuss - Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn

Denise Hebesberger - University Cambridge

Madita Zetzsche - MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig

Julia Hoffmann - Universität Potsdam

**Your contact details**

PLEASE send us a note when your mailing or email address or any other contact detail has changed! If you or members you know feel that they should be on the mailing list, but do not receive information or receive mails, but should not be on the distribution list, please contact the secretary, Silke Kipper: [silkip\[at\]zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:silkip[at]zedat.fu-berlin.de)

Also, be reminded to inform us about changes in your status (student/full member).

Please contact the treasurer Dr. Oliver Schülke, [oschuel\[a\]gwdg.de](mailto:oschuel[a]gwdg.de).