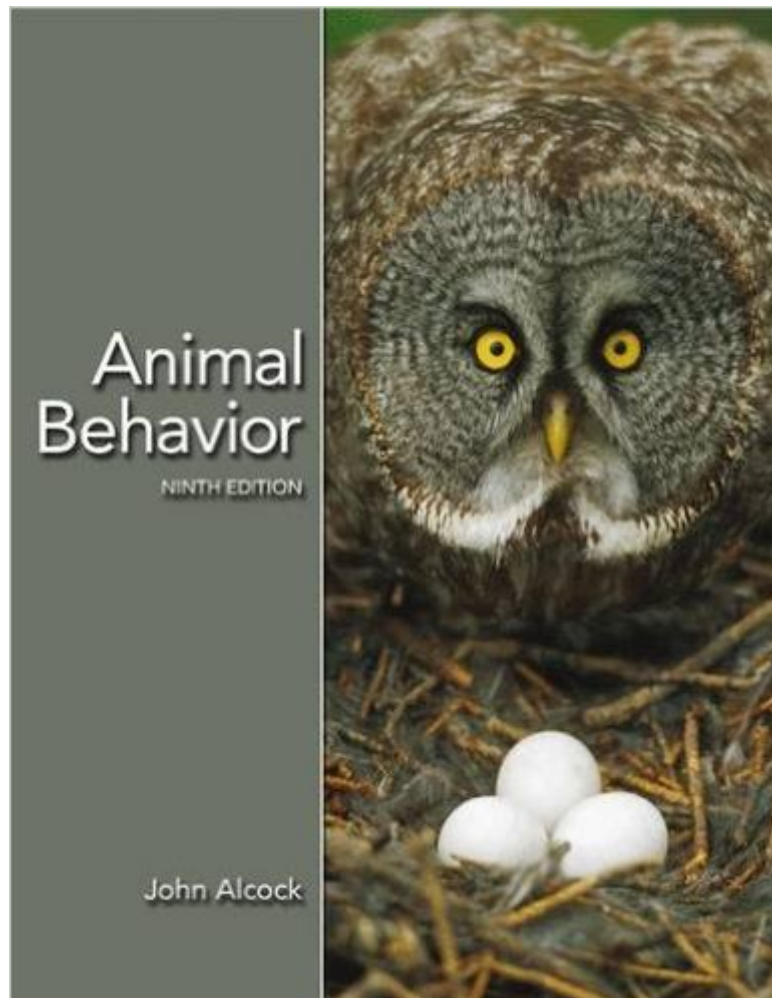




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# Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach, Ninth Edition



## Synopsis

This new edition of *Animal Behavior* has once again been thoroughly rewritten with coverage of much recent work in animal behavior, while retaining the many successful features of previous editions. The writing style is clear and engaging; the book is well illustrated with many new photographs; and the discussion questions are embedded in the text to encourage the development of problem-solving skills of students. This now-classic text continues to offer a balanced treatment of the underlying mechanisms and evolutionary bases of behavior with a focus on the importance of evolutionary theory for the unification of the different behavioral disciplines.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This ninth edition is both comfortably familiar and thoroughly updated. The order and titles of the 14 chapters are the same ... Within this structure, however, the book is rewritten throughout with virtually every paragraph altered. The reference list has grown by nearly 300, and seemingly every citation has been considered for replacement. Similarly, clearly serviceable pictures and figures have often been replaced by even better ones. ... What unites all editions of this work is Alcock's ability to impart the excitement of doing science. ... this textbook remains unmatched in conveying that sense to its readers. I will use this new edition, and look forward to future versions for as long as John Alcock is excited about producing them. The excitement is contagious. --Peter A. Bednekoff, *The Quarterly Review of Biology*... Alcock's *Animal Behavior* continues to be one of the most popular textbooks used in animal behavior courses, and for good reason. The writing is easy

to read and understand, it is packed with detailed examples, figures, and illustrations (all complete with full bibliographic information), and it presents a well-balanced view of proximate and ultimate causes of behavior, both of vertebrates and invertebrates. In addition, for the professor of the course, the ancillaries are useful and diverse ... It is in general a highly enjoyable book to read, both for those who know the field well and for those just being introduced to the wonders of animal behavior. --Miles Engell, Integrative and Comparative Biology... Alcock's Animal Behavior continues to be one of the most popular textbooks used in animal behavior courses, and for good reason. The writing is easy to read and understand, it is packed with detailed examples, figures, and illustrations (all complete with full bibliographic information), and it presents a well-balanced view of proximate and ultimate causes of behavior, both of vertebrates and invertebrates. In addition, for the professor of the course, the ancillaries are useful and diverse ... It is in general a highly enjoyable book to read, both for those who know the field well and for those just being introduced to the wonders of animal behavior. --Miles Engell, Integrative and Comparative Biology

John Alcock is Regents Professor Emeritus of Biology at Arizona State University. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University under the direction of Ernst Mayr. His research deals with the behavioral ecology of insect mating systems, with projects that have taken him from Arizona to Costa Rica and Australia. He wrote *The Triumph of Sociobiology* (2001) and coauthored *The Evolution of Insect Mating Systems* (1983) with Randy Thornhill. Alcock has also written six other books on animal behavior and natural history for general audiences. One of these, *In a Desert Garden*, received the Burroughs Award for natural history writing in 1998. Dr. Alcock also received the Dean's Quality Teaching Award the first year it was given at Arizona State University.

Two stars for and the third-party rental store. Zero stars to the author and publisher of this textbook. We're already through four chapters in this text and WOW is all I can say. Although, the information is interesting and informative, the author is outright confusing and jumping from one topic to the next in the same paragraph. Who does that?! What's more confusing, is there's never enough information to fully explain some of the behaviors being mentioned. But the author tries to explain them despite making it difficult on the readers. Shame on you, Mr. Alcock! Publishing is not your area of expertise.

10th edition is reorganized from the 8th edition. Material content about the same. Rented this one and purchased 8th edition cheap so I could highlight and make notes as I read. That's my

recommendations.

This book takes a run-around approach to explaining even the most simplistic behaviors of mammals. If you were looking for a clear explanation to some of the most fascinating animal behaviors, you're better off looking at Wikipedia (YES I SAID WIKIPEDIA, LIBRARIANS!). One section in particular that explained bird song, was just example after example, providing no clear direction to the point of the discussion until the conclusion. We've complicated beings, but we ain't THAT complicated, John Alcock.

Excellent text book. Extremely important to anyone that study both animal and human behavior. There is a new version. Then, if you have money, go with the new version, but if not, this one is cheap and very actualized 2009. Ps. There is some people that don't like the writing stile of the author. He explain the concepts through several examples. If you don't like a lot of examples then maybe you should prefer other text books.

For it being such an old book, it was in fairly decent conditions. There was some wear and tear (a little more than advertised) but I expected it. The item unfortunately arrived a day after my first exam (bummer) but it is almost exactly the same as the current edition (9th). In fact, my professor insisted we get the older editions as he disagrees with a lot of the information in the newer editions. All I know is that several classmates paid at least 90 dollars for the 9th edition and i paid less than 5 for this incredibly similar edition. It IS missing a few things here and there but it is no problem for me as my professor provides supplementary powerpoints. Overall, it was a great investment and despite the MINIMAL wear and tear, I am very satisfied!

While I expected this book (and my course) to be a book of concepts and theories, they are actually filled with examples of field studies, lab studies, etc. This makes the book actually enjoyable to read, if you have any interest in animal behavior. The writer is an evolutionary biologist himself, and he makes this clear when he explicitly compares his opinions to other biologists' opinions. The images of the author's thumb as a mating object by a bee were also amusing. Like another reviewer mentioned, this book is fun, and can -almost- be read for fun.

Amazing Book!, We read it for my Animal Behavior class and I thought it was just awesome!

A wonderful book to go along with my Animal Behavior class. not dry at all, makes the readings for class more fun than most college textbooks.

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