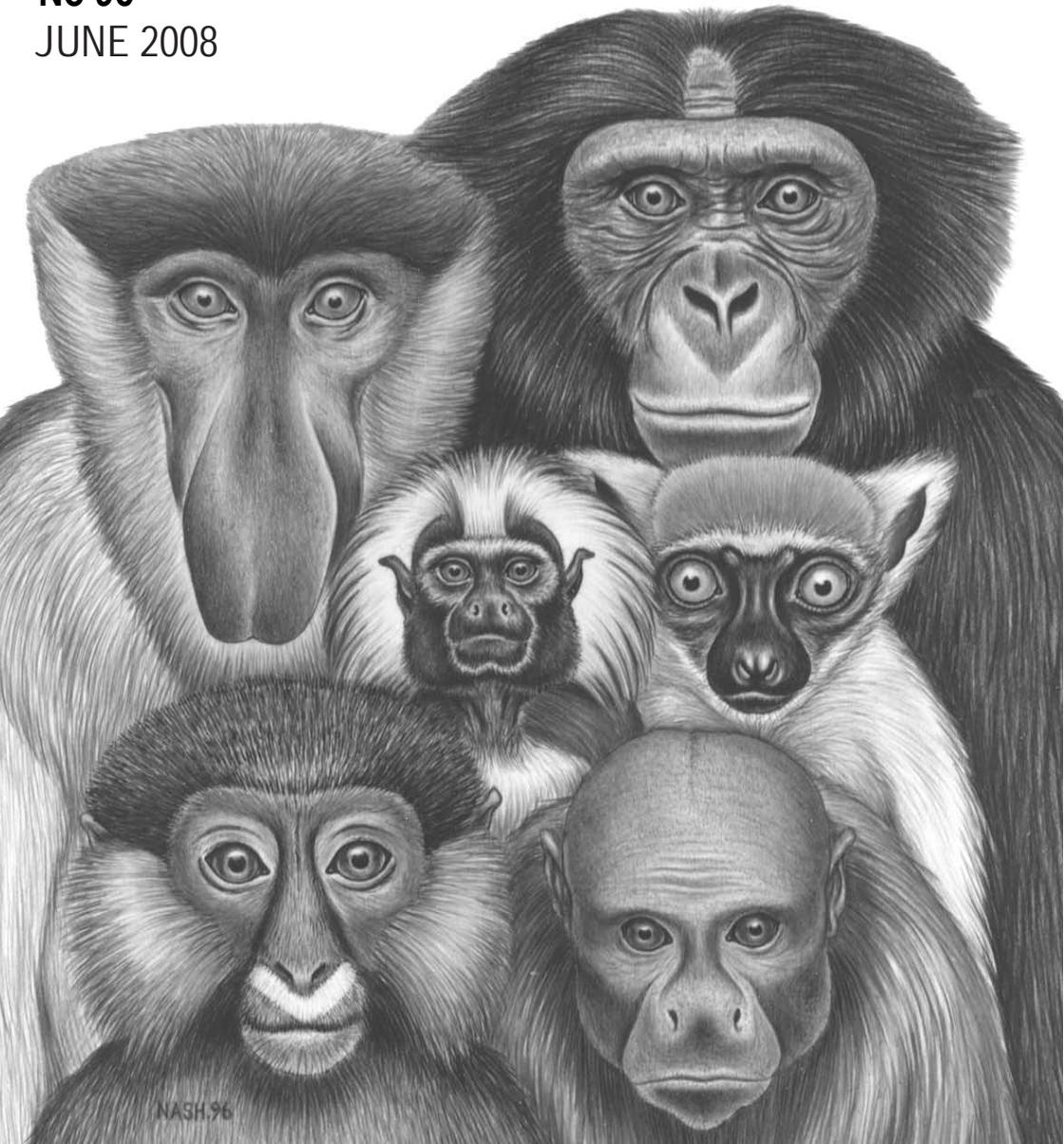


PRIMATE EYE

Primate Society of Great Britain

No 95

JUNE 2008



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EDITORIAL

As any reader of *Primate Eye* over the last year is doubtless aware, the Council of the Primate Society of Great Britain took the bold step to cancel the normal Spring meeting this year. While normally this would be a disturbing sign, in this case it is nothing of the sort. More than compensating for the loss of our rather small-scale affair is the chance to attend the relatively enormous International Primate Society biennial meeting in our own backyard (or even closer for our members based in Scotland). For most of us, this represents a unique opportunity; previous meetings have been held in such far-off locales as Kampala and Kyoto. Even though the registration cost is (much) more than the standard PSGB Spring meeting, the chance to choose from nearly a thousand talks and posters from leading researchers from around the world (without the corresponding intercontinental travel costs) makes it a veritable bargain. If you are a British primatologist, Edinburgh is the only place to be this summer. Without question, it will be a long, long time before you have the opportunity to hob-nob with the best and the brightest in international primatology on this scale in the U.K. again. Don't miss this fabulous opportunity.

This is, of course, not to denigrate our more modest gatherings. Below, you can read how some of our longest-serving members enthralled three brand-new PSGB recruits as the Society celebrated its 40th anniversary in London in December. We anticipate equally engaging material for Winter 2008, as well; the first announcement of this conference is contained herein. We also announce the recipients of student bursaries for IPS and report on how your Society is participating in advocacy for primates and their habitats. We may be smaller than IPS, but we're an active, vibrant group in our own right, too.

Finally, on a personal note, you will see below that I am writing from a new address. After 13.5 years in Durham, I have upped sticks and joined the staff at Roehampton University. Please amend your address books accordingly.

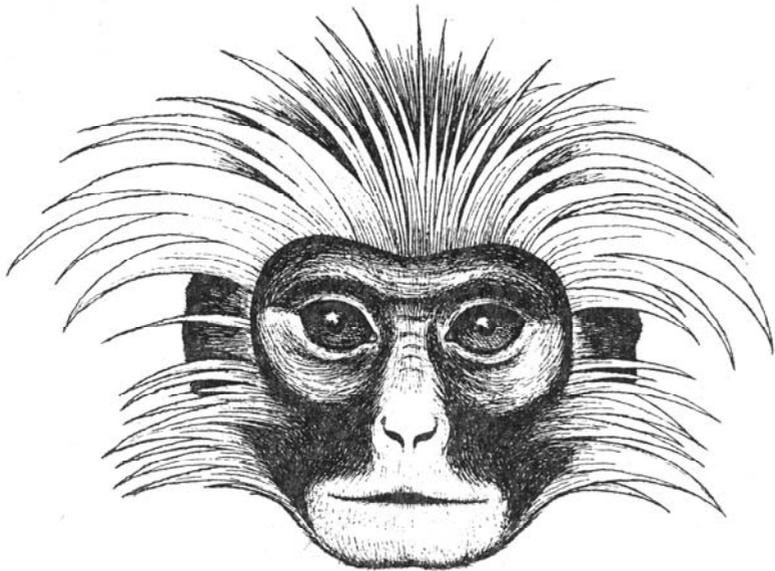
The articles and abstracts included in *Primate Eye* are not for citation or quotation without permission of the authors. The deadline for the next issue of *Primate Eye* is 15th September 2008. Items (manuscript or electronic in any standard format) for future issues should be sent to:

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PSGB correspondence unrelated to *Primate Eye* should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary. Notification of change of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

The PSGB WebSite can be found at <http://www.psgb.org>



REPORT

Donations

PSGB would like to thank Knowsley Safari Park for their very generous recent donation of £1500. This was given to the conservation fund to support two projects selected by members of the Conservation Working Party from applications submitted in February and August. More information about Knowsley can be found at <www.knowsley.com>.

We also extend our gratitude to Bangor University's Zoological Society. They have donated a £50 cheque to the 2008 conservation cause as a token of appreciation for a talk given by Simon Bearder to the Zoological Society earlier this year. As reported in February, the project Council has chosen to support for 2007-08 is the reforestation of Bawangling Reserve in China, where the Hainan gibbon, *Hylobates (Nomascus) hainanus*, the most threatened primate on Earth, still occurs. PSGB is grateful to both the Zoological Society, and to Simon for his time and effort.

It is donations such as these, and purchases of merchandise, both at meetings and via the e-store (accessible via the main PSGB website <www.psgb.org>), that allow the PSGB to support important work and study in primate conservation. Please encourage your charity-minded friends to utilise the e-store (all profits go directly to conservation projects) or to contact Caroline Harcourt, Convenor of the Conservation Working Party <cwp@psgb.org>, to discuss donations.

REPORT

PSGB Winter Meeting 2008–Celebrating 40 Years of British Primatology 17–18 December 2007 Zoological Society of London

Forty Years of Ground Breaking Research; but can anyone find a working laser pointer?

As we travelled to London Zoo to join the 40th Anniversary meeting of the PSGB in its home territory, we were surprisingly nervous about attending our first academic meeting. As a result, keen and slightly embarrassed, we arrived 45 minutes early on Monday morning, London traffic not quite meeting our unbearably chaotic expectations. Prof. Robin Dunbar later

surprised us by admitting to doing the same thing at his first meeting; at least we were in good company. As we settled, we began to realise how fortunate we were; our first meeting of the PSGB was going to be a crash course of the last 40 years of the Society's work and many achievements, presented by a sea of Council members, both past and present.



L to R: Klaus Zuberbühler, Hannah Buchanan-Smith, Paul Honess, Bill Sellers, Hilary Box, Ann MacLarnon, Phyllis Lee, Bernard Wood, Bob Martin

The wide range of topics (we touch on only a few here) was started with a presentation from the first of many former presidents to speak, Bob Martin on the *Evolution of Primate Reproduction – The Key Issue of Placentation*. Current president Ann MacLarnon followed with an interesting discussion on combining lab and field approaches in investigations of primate life history. She generated particular interest among the audience with descriptions of observations of olive baboon use of the African black plum (*Vitex doniana*) as a physiological and social contraceptive (perhaps we are just a few years away from the first primate ‘family planning’ clinics). This was then followed, appropriately, by Phyllis Lee, with a presentation on primate parenting. Finally before lunch we had the pleasure of hearing from Robert Hinde in the Founding Member Address, who took us back to the time of early field primatology when “East Africa was littered with women that Louis Leakey had disregarded” and bananas required a thumbprint receipt.



*L to R: Chris Pryce, Russell Hill, Colleen Schaffner, Robin Dunbar,
Rob Barton, Andrew Whiten*

After lunch Bernard Wood opened the next session with a discussion of *Palaeoanthropology: Then and Now*, and later promised to donate in his name a laser pointer that worked to the Society. The afternoon then went on to cover everything from the roots of primate language to captive primate care and welfare, ending with the presentation of the Napier Award by Hilary Box to Annika Paukner of Stirling University, received on her behalf by Sarah-Jane Vick. With the conclusion of the first day, we made our way to the Princess of Wales pub for the 40th anniversary dinner and a fascinating opportunity, as three new members, to observe many of the people we spend our time referencing interacting in the same pub.

The second day continued with another wide spectrum of topics beginning with Russell Hill discussing *Predation and Primate Behaviour*. Both PowerPoint and laser pointer were then set aside as David Chivers presented a more traditional slide show, as well as a fantastic array of monkey calls, on the problems of forest fragmentation in the Far East. The Conservation Medal, the second only to have been awarded, was then presented to Cyril Rosen, who took the opportunity to present his first PowerPoint presentation. He delivered a touching lecture on the primates he has known and worked with, giving the gathered academics a brief chance to step back and appreciate the fascinating subjects of our work.



Conservation Medal recipient Cyril Rosen

The longer-than-anticipated lunch break of the second day saw Professors, Doctors and eager students alike rushing off to explore the zoo and observe (purely for the purposes of research, of course) the animals that are the focus of all the amazing work of the PSGB. Of particular interest was the new gorilla enclosure, where the resident male seemed already to have found the optimum hiding place for avoiding the stares of excitable crowds. Finally the conference was brought to a close by “the president who never was”, Andy Whiten, with a presentation on his work documenting primate culture both in the field and captivity.

We would like to take the opportunity to again thank the organisers of the meeting for all their work. It was inspiring to see, not only the full spectrum of the Society’s work on display presented by so many high profile researchers, but also how academic relationships have developed and are maintained into friendships through the years and a shared passion for studying and protecting our closest relatives. For us, it was a particular pleasure to hear speeches showing how research has developed over the past forty years. We look forward to the next forty years, when we ourselves may have the opportunity of wheeling out, ‘*ahem*’, we mean affectionately introduce our own advisors - Rob Barton, Russell Hill, Jo Setchell and Todd Rae - at future meetings.

Hannah Young, Courtney Segovis & Sally Macdonald
Durham University

FUTURE MEETINGS



IPS 2008 - Edinburgh

The Primate Society of Great Britain is proud to host IPS 2008. It is a fantastic opportunity for primatologists old and new, and others from further afield, to get to see and hear the largest gathering in scientific primatology for over 10 years. We now have over a thousand delegates registered, nearly 1000 oral and poster presentations, and a full week of social events. The conference will be a great opportunity for colleagues in related areas, students, etc. to find out what's going in our field. For those in the UK and nearby, it's on our doorstep; the next IPS (in 2010) will be in Japan, and who knows how far away the one after that. Please note, for students starting a course in the autumn, they can register for IPS as students, whether or not they are students right now.

Please visit the IPS 2008 website (www.ips2008.co.uk), explore it, bookmark it and keep an eye out for announcements. We look forward to seeing you all on our list of registered delegates in the near future!

PSGB Winter Meeting 2008 Wednesday 3 December 2008

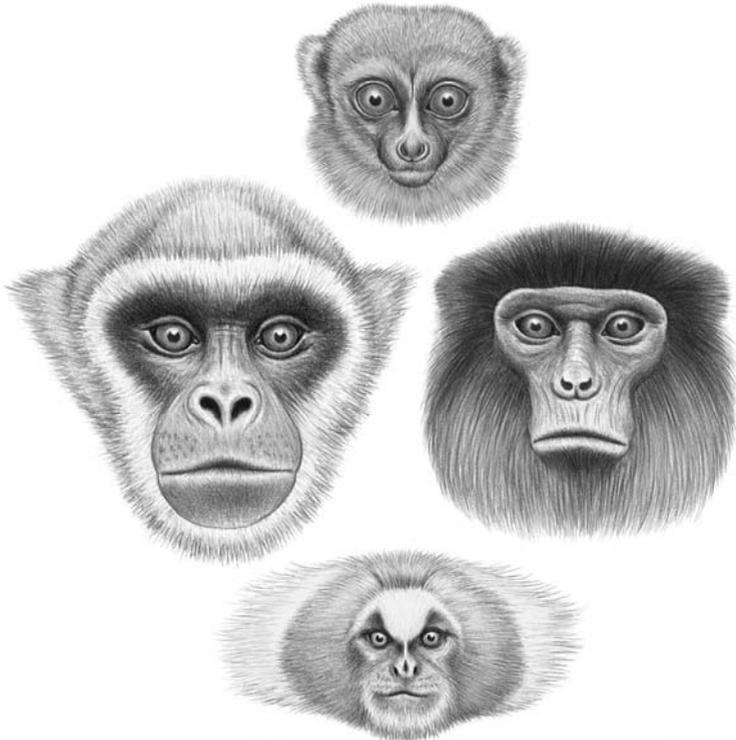
Primate Conservation: Measuring and mitigating trade in primates
Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park,
London NW1 4RY

The Winter Meeting of the Primate Society of Great Britain will be on several topics linking primate conservation to an increasing global threat – trade in primates. Topics to be covered include overviews and case studies of the bushmeat, medicinal and pet trades; the use of forensics in trade; problems, pitfalls, and successes of rehabilitating and reintroducing confiscated primates; and educational and livelihood strategies to mitigate trade. The fusion of these topics should be of interest to primatologists and zoologists within academia, zoos, rescue centres and the conservation community. Posters are welcome on these and related topics; presenters are invited to submit a full version of their paper for publication in an edited

volume of Endangered Species Research. The meeting is being organized by Giuseppe Donati, Anna Nekaris, Vincent Nijman and Juliet Wright of Oxford Brookes University; they can be contacted (see below) regarding the edited volume. The meeting will take place in the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London from 9:00–19:00 on 3 December 2008. Registration at the door (PSGB student members: £3; student non-members: £5; PSGB members: £5; non-members: £10).

We welcome poster presentations; if you would like to submit one, please contact the organisers:

Anna Nekaris (anekaris@brookes.ac.uk)
Vincent Nijman (vnijman@brookes.ac.uk)
Giuseppe Donati (gdonati@brookes.ac.uk) and
Juliet Wright (student@psgb.org)



CONSERVATION GRANT REPORTS

Assessment of the Density and Composition of the Nocturnal Lemur Population of Andasibe, Eastern Madagascar

KARLA BIEBOUW

<kbiebouw@yahoo.com >

Awarded a PSGB Conservation Grant in August 2006

Although extensive surveys have been conducted on the fauna and flora of the Andasibe region, very few studies have focussed on the lemurs. The aim of this study was to make a new assessment of the nocturnal lemur population of Analamazaotra Special Reserve and Forest Station in Eastern Madagascar.



A hairy-eared dwarf lemur (*Allocebus trichotis*) in Andasibe

I walked a total of 16.7 km of reconnaissance walks in the Special Reserve and the Forest Station between October and November 2007. I recorded the genus rather than the species as it is difficult, in the field, to differentiate species within the genera *Microcebus* and *Cheirogaleus* in particular. I estimated population density in two ways. First, I calculated the number of animals per kilometre walked. Then, I assessed the density per square kilometre and per hectare for all animals encountered and for the genera with ten or more animals sighted (i.e. *Avahi* and *Cheirogaleus*). During the

nocturnal reconnaissance walks, I encountered 48 animals of five different genera: *Allocebus*, *Avahi*, *Cheirogaleus*, *Lepilemur* and *Microcebus*. In addition, I observed *Daubentonia madagascariensis* opportunistically on two occasions, once in the Special Reserve and once in the Forest Station. The results of the density calculations are as follows: all genera: 2.88 animals/km, 116.17 animals/km², 1.16 animals/ha; *Cheirogaleus*: 1.26 animals/km, 74.95 animals/km², 0.75 animals/ha; *Avahi*: 1.02 animals/km; *Microcebus*: 0.42 animals/km; *Allocebus*: 0.12 animals/km and *Lepilemur*: 0.02 animals/km. It was not possible to truncate the data and calculate the strip width for the density assessment of *Avahi*, as most sightings occurred between 9-9.5 m from the trail. Based on observations at this particular site, I propose that *Microcebus* sp., *Avahi laniger* and *Cheirogaleus* sp. be considered Least Concern for this site. At a species level, however, it is still extremely urgent to assess the exact species composition and attempt to determine the density per species, especially for mouse and dwarf lemurs. *Allocebus trichotis*, *Lepilemur* sp. and *Daubentonia madagascariensis* need urgent additional research to determine their level of threat. It is crucial for the conservation of these species to continue research efforts to determine species' distribution and abundance all along the east coast of Madagascar.



A mouse lemur (*Microcebus* sp.) in Andasibe

PSGB ADVOCACY

The Primate Society has been active from the start in protecting primates and their environments. Since the start of the year, we have twice offered our support to causes related to primate and habitat conservation. Below we reproduce the text of two letters, one to the UK government (by Sandra Altherr of Pro Wildlife) and one to the Convention on Biological Diversity (by Chris Ransom of the Zoological Society of London), both signed by the President of the Society in an attempt to curtail two of the biggest threats to wild primates: the illegal trade in timber and bushmeat.

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Nobel House

March 2008

Dear Secretary of State,

The signatories to this letter, representing the private sector and major environmental NGOs, jointly ask the UK Government to support the 10-Minute Rule Bill introduced by Barry Gardiner MP, entitled Illegally Logged Timber (Prohibition of Sale & Distribution).

We strongly believe that this legislation is urgently needed. We believe that the UK Government should take a lead within Europe by supporting the introduction of specific legislation that would make it illegal for:

A distributor or importer who sells, or offers for sale, any wood that has been-

- (i) harvested, sold, taken or possessed illegally in the country from which the wood was originally harvested, or***
- (ii) exported illegally from a country from which it was originally harvested or imported illegally into a country through which it passed or was transhipped.***

Illegal logging is a criminal activity that undermines governance systems worldwide, destroys ecosystems, contributes to carbon emissions, harms poor and rural communities and forces UK businesses and workers to compete against inappropriately low-cost forest products made from illegally-sourced fibre. Illegal logging directly costs the UK economy millions of pounds per year in depressed prices and unfair competition within the timber industry.

We believe by introducing this simple yet effective legislation the Government would be taking a major step towards fulfilling its long-standing commitment to tackle illegal logging.

Importantly, by supporting this legislation the UK would send a strong signal to world markets that wood products harvested illegally will no longer be acceptable here. We endorse this critically-needed legislation and urge you to support its introduction. We would also urge you to support similar legislation being introduced throughout Europe and within G8 countries.

Yours sincerely,
PSGB

**Open letter to all Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Impact of bushmeat on forest biodiversity**

May 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

At the 9th Conference of the Parties (19th to 30th May 2008 in Bonn), the Member States of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will discuss an in-depth review on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity. The undersigned scientists – working on the fields of socioeconomy, anthropology, ecology, conservation and primatology – call upon the CBD Parties to recognise the far-reaching impact of bushmeat hunting on forest diversity and structure in its entirety.

The devastating effects of bushmeat hunting in Central and Western Africa are well recognised. However, largely uncontrolled hunting in Latin America, Asia and Madagascar has so far received much less attention. Nevertheless, the extent of this hunting has dramatically increased in recent decades due to the introduction of modern weapons, changes in infrastructure, growing human population and socio-economic changes, including an increasing commercialisation of bushmeat.

As a consequence of this mostly uncontrolled and unsustainable hunting pressure, large-bodied species are usually among the first to disappear as they are the most sought-after targets. In particular, large-bodied primates with their low reproductive rate and low population densities cannot withstand the tremendous off-takes. As a consequence, they have been diminished or even extirpated in many areas in Latin America, Africa and

Asia. The situation is similarly dire for several ungulate species and other sought-after bushmeat species.

Since its 5th meeting in 2000, the CBD has discussed the issue of bushmeat repeatedly. Problems with the unsustainable hunting of wildlife for bushmeat are also reflected in Goal 4, Objective 2 of the CBD's Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity. However, the current discussions are neglecting the enormous risk that bushmeat hunting is posing to forest biodiversity. Not only the hunted species are affected but forest structure, composition and biodiversity are seriously threatened. Recent scientific findings clearly indicate that defaunation has significant impact on seed dispersal, seed predation, seedling survival, and other plant recruitment processes. The removal of large-bodied primates, for example, has an especially negative influence on plant species with large seeds, as seed removal and pre-dispersal seed predation of those plant species are significantly reduced. In the medium-term, changes in forest composition, structure, and biodiversity are induced; in the long-term, even forest regeneration and ecosystem function and services are likely to be affected. These interactions are also considered in the CBD's recent publication *Conservation and use of wildlife-based resources: The Bushmeat Crisis*" (March 2008).

In response, the undersigned scientists urge the CBD Parties to:

- recognise the wide-ranging negative impact of bushmeat hunting by adequately reflecting these concerns in the decision on forest biodiversity that the CBD is expected to make at CoP9.
- consider this aspect in their national forest programmes by reviewing the scope, implementation and enforcement of hunting laws.
- create biological corridors and expand protected areas and surrounding buffer zones.
- undertake awareness campaigns on the long-term negative consequences of hunting for bushmeat on the ecosystem as a whole.
- support the provision of alternative protein resources for local communities where protein is limiting.

This could, after an assessment of ecological impact, include the establishment of small domestic livestock farming, aqua- and agriculture.

Yours sincerely,
PSGB

Announcement: Council needs Student Representative

The Council of PSGB is in need of a new student representative to serve on Council, starting in January 2009. The successful candidate will be nominated by Council for election at the Annual General Meeting in December. The student council member serves on Council as the voice of the student membership and provides a student perspective on Council matters. The student council member has full voting powers. Ideally, the candidate should be able to attend the three Council meetings per year (transportation costs are covered by Council), attend the PSGB meetings and be at such a stage in their career that they could serve two years on Council. Interested parties, or for further details, please contact the PSGB Honorary Secretary, Colleen Schaffner, at <c.schaffner@chester.ac.uk>.

Announcement: Student bursary recipients for IPS 2008

The PSGB is proud to announce that nineteen Student Bursaries for IPS 2008 have been awarded:

Lauren Brent (Roehampton)
Tara Cooper (Queens University Belfast)
Louise de Raad (Durham)
Tim Eppley (Oxford Brookes)
Orlaith Fraser (Liverpool John Moores)
Jack Griffey (Stirling)
Marie Hamard (Oxford Brookes)
Malene Friis Hansen (Oxford Brookes)
Mark Harrison (Cambridge)
Lydia Hopper (St Andrews)
Tricia Parish (Oxford Brookes)
Elizabeth Price (St Andrews)
Anna Roberts (Stirling)
Magdalena Svensson (Oxford Brookes)
Louisa Tasker (Stirling)
Ingrid Twigg (Oxford Brookes)
Claire Watson (Stirling)
Erik Willems (Durham)
Juliet Wright (Oxford Brookes)

BOOK REVIEWS

Primate Eye is on the mailing list of all of the top academic publishers of primate-related books. Members are encouraged to provide reviews. You may contact the Book Reviews Editor, Clare Cunningham, at <bookreviews@psgb.org> to find out what books have been received or to suggest books for review.

Apes of the Impenetrable Forest: The Behavioral Ecology of Sympatric Chimpanzees and Gorillas

Craig Stanford (2007)

Prentice Hall

ISBN: 0132432609 (Paperback) £10.99

Stanford's monograph is the sixth in the 'Primate Field Studies' series and is aimed at a broad audience (undergraduates, primarily). From the opening lines of the introduction, the reader is transported straight into Uganda, and the author's conversational tone is a bit like reading the traveller's tales of an old friend, rather than reading an "adjunct to textbooks." The first few chapters put the rest of the book into context, including how Stanford came to study the mountain gorillas and chimpanzees at Bwindi, having spent several years studying the Gombe chimpanzees. The book covers the scientific results of the research on the sympatric apes at Bwindi, but also the rationales of the research, and how he and his colleagues set up and ran the project, which all make very enjoyable reading, for anyone interested in these species. For those with a more generalised or limited knowledge of the topic, a background summary of great ape field research is also given, as well as an overview of some of the processes involved in setting up a field project and study site, and getting started on the ground, with examples from Stanford's experience at Bwindi.

The story continues with the harrowing events that took place at the tourist camp, Buhoma, in 1999, when 13 foreign nationals were taken hostage (including one of Stanford's staff, who was later released), eight of whom were killed. Stanford uses this example to highlight the need to address potential security concerns when choosing a field site, however unlikely a security problem may seem until anything actually happens. The book continues with life at a new, more secure site in Bwindi, and we are introduced to some of the results that were obtained on the gorillas and chimpanzees, including those relating to diet, nesting sites, bipedality, and chimpanzee-gorilla encounters. Stanford goes on to discuss what the findings about chimpanzees and gorillas at Bwindi might tell us about the coexistence of early hominids. On the whole, I found this book to be very interesting, enjoyable and easy-to-read, and I would certainly recommend it to anyone interested in great apes, but I do have a couple of gripes: there are a few typographical errors that surprised me (such as the "=" sign being

replaced by the number 5 throughout the book, which confused me at first!) and a few occasions where spaces are missing between words. I also found it a little odd that the text is sometimes repetitious, and when it is so, it does not feel like a helpful summary or reminder, but more as though these are editing errors and that no one noticed that that ground had already been covered. Gripes aside, this is an interesting book and should appeal to anyone interested in African great apes.

SONYA P. HILL
Chester Zoo

Foraging, Behavior and Ecology
David W. Stephens, Joel S. Brown & Ronald C. Ydenberg (Eds) (2007)
University of Chicago Press
ISBN: 0226772640 (Paperback) £23.50

Why animals eat some foods and not others has been a key question in zoology ever since the weight of field observations persuaded the biological community that functional morphology could not explain everything. In *Foraging, Behavior and Ecology*, Stephens, Brown and Ydenberg try (with, it must be said, notable success) to show not only where we are in terms of current theory, but how we got here; several sections in the book are devoted to the ‘prehistory’ of modern foraging theory, the mechanistic approaches, drives, motivational and state space models that preceded the modern synthesis. The overview is a sometimes rather wry look at how ideas and viewpoints change over time and provides a useful reminder that science too has its fads and fashions, and that just because an idea has ceased to be actively researched and cited, does not mean it has lost its useful explanatory power. However, as the editors point out, the simplistic early notions of trade-offs between danger and hunger are too simplistic to have real predictive or explanatory power. Instead animals “use intricate and sophisticated mechanisms using sensory, neural, endocrine and cognitive structures and active interactions with genes” (p. 19). Simple fitness maximizing solutions to foraging problems are, it seems, as passé as the Skinner Box.

The book is divided into four parts: Foraging and Information Processing; Processing, Herbivory and Storage; Modern Foraging Theory; and Foraging Ecology. Within these we meet such remarkable animals as the common eider, which forages where currents create areas of open water that provide permanent ice-free access to the sea-floor below. The apparently simple honeybee behavioural response of proboscis extension is shown to be the result of a multiplicity of factors. And, by implication, so are most other behaviours. This is elegantly demonstrated by the presence in each chapter of a prologue, which presents real behavioural observations and then sets up

a series of questions about them – questions which are then investigated in the intellectual context of the chapter that follows. It is a very neat and concise way of exploring the diversity of behaviours and their underlying causes from a multiplicity of viewpoints and research disciplines. In doing this we are introduced to the information processing capacities of desert hummingbirds, the role of search images in blue jays, the metabolic consequences for a python of ingesting a gazelle (contrary to popular belief, a food-filled snake is not comatose – just incapacitated by volume; its metabolism may increase 44-fold due to the exigencies of digestion).

None of the 14 chapters is devoted specifically to primates. But, with chapters that consider the neuroethology of foraging, the role of taste perception and digestion times in diet item choice, adaptive energy storage (an excellent critical review chapter by Alasdair Houston and John MacNamara), density and risk sensitive strategies, the open-minded primatologist is both reminded of the diversity of foraging modalities and influences that exist across the animal kingdom, and challenged to apply some of these to our own more familiar study situations. In addition, chapters on foraging and genetic relatedness, models of information flow in groups, and producer-scrounger models provide some provocative opportunities for future research in field primatology. Much of the work covered in these chapters has insects, birds and large grazing mammals as its subjects. The challenges in applying some of these models and ideas to long-lived, smart, savvy animals like primates ranges from ‘quite’ to ‘exceedingly difficult’, but it behoves us to try; testing the generality of these models and approaches in our own specialized sphere could both inform zoology in general and, perhaps, shake up a few of our own cherished notions.

ADRIAN A. BARNETT

Centre for Research in Evolutionary Anthropology, Roehampton University

BOOKS OF INTEREST

In addition to our regular book reviews, *Primate Eye* is now introducing an occasional special section, consisting of short (maximum of 350 words) descriptions of books that may be of interest to our readers, but fall outside the traditional boundaries of primatology. If you've recently read a 'book of interest' and wish to alert the *Primate Eye* readership, please contact the Book Reviews Editor, Clare Cunningham, at <bookreviews@psgb.org>, to make sure that the book has not been received for regular review.

Nature's Palette: The Science of Plant Color

David Lee (2007)

University of Chicago Press

ISBN: 0226470520 (Hardcover) £18.00

If you have ever looked at the leaf of a maranta and wondered why it is so superbly patterned, considered – even for a moment – how an orchid might manage to arrange those colours *just so*, thought about how an hydrangea's flowers change colour, or mused over the skin changes of a ripening mango, then this is a book you will greatly enjoy.

Primatologists have a passing familiarity with plant colours; a fruit's colour may indicate ripeness state, may influence whether a monkey eats it or not, may determine which sex can perceive it as edible... But these interpretations very much tend to be from the point of view of the, dare I say it, primate eye and mind. Why, in the wider evolutionary sense, the plant might have these adaptations is not often considered, yet, the natural world at large does not necessarily share our preoccupation with primates; the colours of plant organs may have evolved for reasons other than the primatological ...

Beautifully illustrated with twelve chapters that roam lucidly across how colour is created and perceived and the physics and biology of pigments, structural colours and of the plant parts that possess them. Individual chapters deal with colours and patterns in leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds, stems and roots and cover the gamut from advertising, to warning, camouflage and the simply accidental. Both plant iridescence and why leaves turn red receive their own chapters. When mentioned, plant anatomy is clearly explained and the associated terminology kept to a functional minimum. The chemistry of the pigments involved receives a clear and illuminating treatment and an appendix in the back has simple tests for their analysis and extraction.

Designed to be understood by the well-educated layman, it will serve equally as a good introductory text for undergraduates, getting out of our perceptual rut, or as a means of appreciating, with much greater verve, the fruit and veg. section of the local supermarket.

ADRIAN A. BARNETT

Centre for Research in Evolutionary Anthropology, Roehampton University

THE PRIMATE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

(Affiliated to the International Primatological Society and the European Federation of Primatology)

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