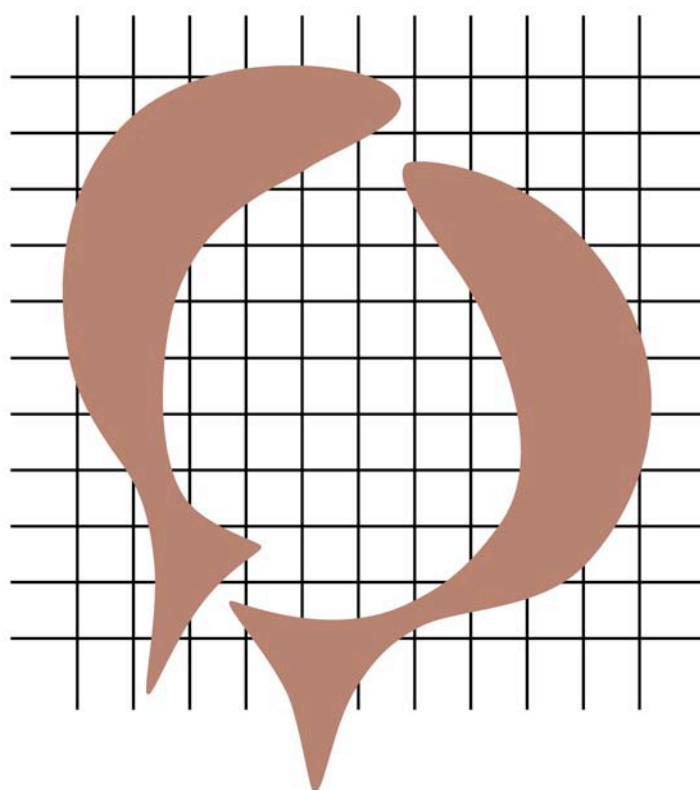


# NVG NIEUWSBRIEF

zestiende jaargang no. 1, juli 2007

## *Nederlandse Vereniging voor* Gedragsbiologie



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## DE NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING VOOR GEDRAGSBIOLOGIE

De Nederlandse Vereniging voor gedragsbiologie stelt zich ten doel de gedragsbiologie in Nederland te bevorderen. Daartoe organiseert zij symposia en discussies, en geeft zij deze nieuwsbrief uit.

### Bestuur

Prof. Dr. C. ten Cate (voorzitter)  
Dr. Paul Koene (secretaris)  
Dr. Bart Houx (penningmeester)  
Dr. Joris Koene (Dalfsen)  
Dr. Liesbeth Sterck (internationale zaken)  
(redactie nieuwsbrief; tijdelijk Dr. Paul Koene)

### Informatie

Informatie over de NVG kan gevonden worden op de website:  
<http://www.gedragsbiologie.org>

of kan worden ingewonnen bij de voorzitter Prof. C. ten Cate, e-mail: [tencate@rulsfb.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:tencate@rulsfb.leidenuniv.nl)

### Lidmaatschap

U kunt zich opgeven als lid bij onze secretaris Dr. Paul Koene:

e-mail: [paul.koene@chello.nl](mailto:paul.koene@chello.nl)

of via de bovengenoemde website.

De contributie bedraagt € 22,- per jaar voor studenten, AIO's, OIO's en werkzoekenden. Voor anderen € 27,- per jaar.

### Kopij voor de nieuwsbrief

U kunt kopij voor de nieuwsbrief sturen aan:

e-mail: [paul.koene@chello.nl](mailto:paul.koene@chello.nl)

## Redactioneel voorwoord

Voor U ligt NVG Nieuwsbrief nummer 1 van de zestiende jaargang. Het nummer bevat informatie over Dalfsen 2007, en een aantal andere belangrijke evenementen.

Veel leesplezier en tot ziens in Dalfsen!

Paul Koene

## Voorwoord

Best NVG-leden,

Deze Nieuwsbrief is dunner en later dan u gewend bent. Dat heeft een reden. Zondag 3 juni is, voor ons en vele anderen onverwacht, Henk Visser overleden. De kanker die hij eerder overwonnen leek te hebben bleek zich toch op vitale plaatsen te hebben genesteld. Henk was hoogleraar 'Energetica van Gedrag' aan de universiteit van Groningen, maar ook redacteur van deze Nieuwsbrief. Hij was net begonnen om materiaal voor de Nieuwsbrief te verzamelen toen hij het moest opgeven. Als bestuur verliezen we met hem een betrouwbare steunpilaar, maar bovenal een heel plezierige en warme persoonlijkheid. Henk heeft veel voor de NVG gedaan, zo was hij een van de drijvende krachten achter de mede door de NVG georganiseerde 2<sup>e</sup> European Conference for Behavioural Biology,

gehouden in 2004 in Groningen. In de volgende Nieuwsbrief zal een uitgebreider 'in memoriam' geplaatst worden.

Vanwege deze omstandigheid hopen we dat u er begrip voor heeft dat we met een beknopte Nieuwsbrief volstaan. Naast een paar onderdelen die al klaar lagen is het belangrijkste onderwerp de aankondiging van de gebruikelijke najaarsbijeenkomst in Dalfsen. Bijzondere aandacht vragen we voor een nieuw element: de bijeenkomst zal dit jaar voor het eerst worden voorafgegaan door een Workshop voor (beginnende) promovendi. We hopen daarmee als NVG een nuttige bijdrage te gaan leveren aan de opleiding, training en netwerkvorming van promovendi in ons vakgebied.

Carel ten Cate  
Vz NVG

## Annual meeting 28-30 November 2007 in Dalfsen

Dear members,

This year's annual scientific and general meeting of the NVG will again be held at the conference centre "De Bron" in Dalfsen (<http://www.conferencecentre.nl/>). The meeting will officially start with a dinner on Wednesday 28 November at 18h00 followed by the first keynote lecture and will run until 15h30 on Friday 30 November. As usual, the meeting will be in English. The scientific programme will comprise two evening keynote lectures by prominent international scientist, contributed oral and poster presentations, the annual general meeting, and a mini-symposium on "*Pheromones, hormones & behaviour*" on Friday afternoon. The meeting ends with the awarding of the poster prizes by the president of the society.

One of this year's keynote speakers will be Prof. **Redouan Bshary** from the Université de Neuchâtel (<http://www2.unine.ch/ethol/page5736.html>). He performed groundbreaking work on the evolution and maintenance of cleaning mutualism in reef fish. His behavioural ecological research on interspecies interactions now extends to predator-prey relationships, interspecific cooperative hunting systems, and flowering plant-pollinator mutualism. In addition, he addresses the underlying cognitive and physiological mechanisms of the behaviours he studies.

The other keynote speaker will be Prof. **Denis Réale** from the Université du Québec à Montréal (<http://www.unites.uqam.ca/crcec/>). He is well-known for his work on

animal personality, which he investigates in an integrative manner. He studies a number of different species (e.g. red squirrels, chipmunks and bighorn sheep) and looks at the ecological and evolutionary role of temperament. In addition, using quantitative genetics, he looks at the genetic and environmental components of phenotypic variation in temperament.

For the first time, the meeting will be preceded by a *PhD workshop* taking place on Wednesday 28 November between 11h00 and 17h00. The aim is to promote discussion between PhDs in behavioural biology. Especially starting PhDs are encouraged to present their research plans, which will subsequently be discussed with the attending PhDs as well as several senior scientists. This meeting will also feature a lecture by Redouan Bshary, who will be present throughout the workshop.

Registration will start in September. For further information see the society's website (<http://www.gedragsbiologie.org>) or contact:

Joris Koene (general organisation)  
020-5987095,  
[joris.koene@falw.vu.nl](mailto:joris.koene@falw.vu.nl)

Liesbeth Sterck (PhD workshop)  
030-2535405,  
[e.h.m.sterck@bio.uu.nl](mailto:e.h.m.sterck@bio.uu.nl)

Bart Houx (financial issues)  
030-2534868 (2615),  
[b.b.houx@vet.uu.nl](mailto:b.b.houx@vet.uu.nl)

We hope to see you all in Dalfsen!  
Joris Koene (on behalf of the NVG board)

## Congressen en andere bijeenkomsten

- **BCZ** – 14th Benelux Congress of Zoology, 1-2 November 2007, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. <http://www.beneluxcongress.com>

### CONGRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear colleague,

We cordially invite you to participate in the 14th Benelux Congress of Zoology, held 1-2 November 2007, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

See:

<http://www.beneluxcongress.com>

Please note September 5th: Early bird registration and deadline for abstract submission

Exciting developments are taking place in animal biology. Physiological and molecular insights from model species are being generalized within and across animal classes. Genomics studies are revolutionizing our views on the adaptation of animals to their environment. New light is shed on the deep phylogenetic splits between the main lineages of invertebrates. Global climate change policies are calling for new insights into animal ecology and behaviour. All these developments have placed animal biology at the forefront of the biological sciences. Take part in the 14th Benelux Congress of Zoology to witness the latest developments in animal biology, and contribute!

Keynote Lectures:

- Prof. Mike Ryan (University of Texas at Austin, USA)
- Prof. Patricia Beldade (Leiden University, The Netherlands)
- Prof. Geoff Parker (University of Liverpool, UK)

Parallel sessions:

The congress is open to all disciplines and fields in zoology. The following sessions are being organised:

- Animal behaviour (Liesbeth Sterck, University of Utrecht)
- Animal ecology (Dries Bonte, Ghent University)
- Animal systems biology (Barbara Bakker, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- Comparative genomics (Martijn Timmermans, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- Conservation biology (Edmée Engel, Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle Luxembourg)
- Developmental biology (Rik Korswagen, Hubrecht Institute, Utrecht)
- Evolution and adaptation (Hans van Gossum, University of Antwerp)
- Functional morphology (Raoul Van Damme, University of Antwerp)
- Neuroscience (Oliver Stiedl, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- Physiology (Roger Huybrechts, Leuven University)
- Reproductive biology (Andries Ter Maat, Max Planck Institute, Seewiesen)
- Stress physiology and toxicology (Gudrun de Boeck, University of Antwerp)

Manuscripts:

Manuscripts can be submitted for publication in *Animal Biology*. The usual instructions for authors apply ([www.animal-biology.com](http://www.animal-biology.com)). Papers can of course be submitted in advance but can also be submitted at the congress.

Location and dates:

The congress will take place at the Vrije Universiteit (VU), De Boelelaan 1105/1085 in Amsterdam on 1 and 2 November 2007

Organisation:

- Koninklijke Nederlandse  
Dierkundige Vereniging  
(KNDV)/Royal Dutch Zoological  
Society  
- Koninklijke Belgische Vereniging  
voor Dierkunde (KBVD)/Société  
Royale Zoologique de Belgique  
(SRZB)/Royal Belgian Zoological  
Society  
- Association des Biologistes  
Luxembourgeois (ABIOL)

Congress secretariat:  
Department on Animal Ecology  
Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences  
Vrije Universiteit  
De Boelelaan 1085  
1081 HV Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
E-mail: BCZ2007@falw.vu.nl  
Tel.: +31 (0)20 5987004

Fax: +31 (0)20 5987123

Nico M. van Straalen, Jacintha  
Ellers, Joris M. Koene

- **ISBE** - International Society for Behavioral Ecology. 9-14 Augustus 2008. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA.
- **ECBB** - The fourth Joint European Conference on Behavioural Biology (ECBB) will take place in Dijon, France, in **July 2008** and will be organized by Frank Cézilly (University of Burgundy, France).
- **ISAE** – 42nd International Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology. 2008 in Dublin, Ireland

## Promoties e.d.

Diederik S. Schregardus (VU, Amsterdam, 2006) "Like a bird on a wire: a lightweight transmitter for radio telemetry of neuronal single units in freely behaving zebra finches"

Oraties:  
Jacintha Ellers (VU, Amsterdam, 9 nov. 2006) "Verborgene variatie : de rol van fenotypische plasticiteit in evolutie"

Nieuwe aanstellingen:  
Jeroen Hoffer (AIO, VU, Amsterdam)  
"Quantifying sexual conflict in a

simultaneous hermaphrodite"  
<http://www.bio.vu.nl/do/staff/JHoffer.htm>

Gesponsord door de NVG:  
Special issue: Animal Behaviour (Animal Biology vol. 57 nr. 2), a selection of papers from participants of the session Animal Behaviour during the 12th Benelux Congress of Zoology 26-28 October 2005, Wageningen, The Netherlands Guest Editor: Joris M. Koene.

## Professor Adriaan Kortlandt: 70 jaar actief

In deze Nieuwsbrief is een samenvatting te vinden van de voordracht die professor dr Adriaan Kortlandt hield op de laatste NVG bijeenkomst (november 2006). Professor Kortlandt (geboren in 1918) behoort tot de eerste generatie van onderzoekers van diergedrag. De eerste publikatie van Kortlandt stamt uit 1938 en ging over het gedrag en de geluiden van de aalscholver (*Ardea* 27, 1-40). Hij is nog steeds actief in het verspreiden van zijn ideeën en er zijn heel weinig mensen van wie de activiteiten zich over zo'n lange periode (70 jaar) uitstrekken. In de genoemde en volgende publikaties over het aalscholveronderzoek ontwikkelde hij een aantal concepten waaronder dat van 'oversprong' en de 'hiërarchie van instincten'. Deze onderwerpen stonden in de beginjaren van het vakgebied sterk in de belangstelling, hoewel ze geen belangrijk thema meer in de moderne gedragsbiologie vormen. In latere jaren richtte zijn onderzoek zich op het gedrag van wilde chimpansees.

Voor dit pionierende onderzoek ontving hij onder meer de 'Jean-Marie Delwart Award' in 2005.

Van begin af aan was Kortlandt's werk er op gericht om een brug te slaan tussen de psychologie en de biologie. Zoals uit de samenvatting van zijn verhaal naar voren komt, en ook valt te lezen in de voorpublicatie van zijn biografie "Aalscholvers, apen en aapmensen", voelde hij zich door collega's uit de beginjaren van de ethologie gedwarsboemd, waardoor naar zijn mening zijn denkbeelden niet de erkenning heeft gekregen die het verdient. Gezien de indrukwekkende loopbaan van Kortlandt en zijn wens om zijn werk onder de aandacht van de hedendaagse gedragsbiologen te brengen vond het NVG bestuur het gepast hem daarvoor op de NVG bijeenkomst de gelegenheid te geven. Hij deed dit op geheel eigen wijze, zoals ook uit de samenvatting naar voren komt.

Carel ten Cate

## Research on instincts in cormorants

**Dr. A. Kortlandt** (*Prof. Em., Uva*)

*Current address:*  
88A Woodstock Road  
Oxford OX2 England  
Phone (01865) 515602

*Occasional address:*  
Henri Polaklaan 42 A  
1018 CT Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Phone (020) 625 1592

The cormorant research programme was initiated in 1935 when I was an amateur photographer and further developed since 1936 as a university freshman. This bird was chosen because it was behaviourally the most observable, the most vocal and the most highly organized species available to me in Holland. The field work was interrupted in 1941 due to the circumstances under German occupation and the irregular zoo observations were ended about 1989.

The field observations on behaviour were conducted from plywood towers of 4, 8 and 12 meter high, the latter with a rotating mini-cabin on the top and a mini-sleeping cabin on the ground in which I lived for five months in the most succesful season in 1939, coming and leaving only in darkness. By this technique 34 family histories of mostly recognisable individuals were recorded within observation distances of 2-6 meters.

From the start my scientific aim was to break through the blind wall around animal ethology and to build a conceptual bridge to human developmental and medical psychology following Freud (1905) and Ch. Bühler (1933). Therefore I took a multidisciplinary university programme including developmental and psychoanalytical psychology, ethology,

physical and social geography, and some anthropology. My main teachers were (in behavioural biology) A.F.J. Portielje and N. Tinbergen, and (in the psychosciences, most important) the then famous psychiatrist H.C. Rümke.

The results were (years of publication):

(1) 1938-'40: Displacement activities, hierarchy of instincts, ascending integration in ontogeny, homosexual derivatives of male and female patterns, differences between "love" and "sex", and what Tinbergen later called "the four whys"(1951).

(2) 1942: Population analysis; 1943: Naturalistic philosophy.

(3) 1949: PhD thesis: Further elaboration, medical aspects, temperamentology, one case history.

(4) 1955: A revised concept of instinct in vertebrates, i.e. the main realisation of my aim since 1936.

(5) p 1953, 1959;1995: Clarifications; updated summary of 1949.

In 1940 G.P. Baerends discovered a hierarchy of drives in a species of digging wasps. It was only one half of my concept because insects are transformed by metamorfosis, rather than by gradual ontogenetic development. He knew my concept but in his PhD thesis he did not mention my priority and instead stated "*dat men zich van de hierarchische bouw van het systeem der inwendige factoren niet genoeg bewust geweest is*", without any reference (1941, p. III- IV). In 1942 N. Tinbergen endorsed this against his better knowledge (p.54-59). The same followed in 1951 (p. 104) even though he agreed with the ontogenetic half of my hierarchy concept on p. 136-137 and p. 140-141. That was inconsistent.

Since then both authors and their Leiden-Groningen school have almost totally ignored all my further contributions to ethology until now, except on the concept of displacement which was discovered and published independently by myself in 1938 and by Tinbergen in 1939. The causes of these omissions may have been: (1) philosophical and/or religious

considerations, (2) human psychology is too difficult and too broad for animal lovers if they are not advised on choosing subjects, and (3) competitive exclusion in research and academic reputations.

The controversy reached the end of the line when R.A. Hinde in 1957 wrote an abusive comment on my paper of 1955 without quoting anything of my positive factual evidence, and the situation deteriorated further around 1972 when Baerends got involved in the governance of my university department, UvA. In 1960 I switched to chimpanzee wildlife research and to the African ape-hominid evolutionary furcation. This was possible due to my earlier geographic study and extensive grants mainly from foreign institutions. In the meantime my university department was abolished. A sad ending of a unique behavioural research laboratory inside a zoo, with a tradition of about 80 years.

I emigrated to the UK when my first wife died in 1989. At that time my friend and "sparring partner" Niko Tinbergen was already too ill to be involved in scientific talks, but I had an opportunity shortly before he died to say a sad farewell and thank you for all, which he appreciated.

Since 2004 I have been writing my scientific autobiography. I hope it will help to bridge the gap between behavioural biology and the psychosciences, similar to some research in the USA and Canada. Perhaps there is some hope that, after a delay of about 70 years, my ideology will now be accepted among Dutch behavioural biologists. That would contribute to improve the quality of medical sciences, psychology, pedagogics and sociology. To illustrate this point: In the development of instinctual hierarchies, conditioning processes play a role. Smoking and obesity are estimated to cause in the Netherlands 45.000 deaths annually.

Any serious comments on this abstract will be appreciated.

Adriaan Kortlandt