

he writes, “With this distinction in mind, we’ll continue to use the word ‘cheating’ to mean both lying and deceiving” (p. 139). Not helpful.

Worse perhaps, some nonhuman statements are questionable—do *Mimosa* plants really change shape to deceive insect predators that they have wilted and are less palatable? Does honesty evolve to make cheating pay? Do birds count their eggs to optimize their clutch size? Is giant panda handstand urinemarking really inflating their size? Does cheating really drive social intelligence?

Despite these flaws, certain biological topics are well explained—for example, the evolution of polyandry, the handicap principle, and brood parasitism. The last issue is particularly well written—not only taking us through the classic common cuckoo-reed warbler coevolutionary arms race, but many extraordinary avian parasite adaptations, and generalist parasitic cowbirds punishing hosts through clutch destruction. On the human side, examining institutionalized cheating using the example of free-riding in bloated academic bureaucracies is masterful. But why do these particular topics stand out? Quite simply Sun assigns far more space to these subjects laying out reasoned arguments at a brisk but engaging pace. I wish he had adhered to that old maxim: “less is more.”

TIM CARO, *School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom*

POWER IN THE WILD: THE SUBTLE AND NOT-SO-SUBTLE WAYS ANIMALS STRIVE FOR CONTROL OVER OTHERS.

By Lee Alan Dugatkin. *Chicago (Illinois): University of Chicago Press.* \$25.00. xvi + 187 p. + 8 pl.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-226-81594-7 (hc); 978-0-226-81595-4 (eb). 2022.

The author began his scientific pursuits with dual interests in studying the evolution of cooperation and dominance. Along his journey, he learned, as many of us have, that these two aspects of animal social lives are intrinsically linked. It is from this discovery that the book, *Power in the Wild: The Subtle and Not-So-Subtle Ways Animals Strive for Control over Others* begins. The volume focuses on power, defined as, “the ability to direct, control, or influence the behavior of others and/or the ability to control access to resources” (p. xiii). It explicitly focuses on nonhuman animals in their right without attempting to connect these social phenomena to parallel features of human societies.

Overall, *Power in the Wild* sets out to synthesize what is currently known about how animals influence collective decision-making and resource hierarchies. The book’s structure is focused on explaining power in the wild through a series of eight topic-based chap-

ters: Chart a Path to Power; Weigh Costs and Benefits; Assess Thy Rivals; Watch and Be Watched; Build Alliances; Cement the Hold; Survive the Battles; and Rise and Fall. Each of the chapters weaves together stories from multiple disparate field studies to gain insights into common themes emerging from evolutionary distinct examples of animals. This engaging publication describes the ways animals use overt and subtle behaviors to assess and influence the behaviors of others. The data within the volume focus more heavily on the social processes that influence resource hierarchies (e.g., dominance ranks) than those of decision-making hierarchies (e.g., leadership). This content reflects a long scientific interest in dominance hierarchies and the growing need for additional studies on group decision-making in animal societies.

In total, the book tells the story of power in the wild through a set of lively examples, drawing most heavily from a list of 33 species of social insects, cephalopods, fish, birds, and mammals. One strength of this volume is its two-page map showcasing the geographic locations of the studies discussed across a word map, emphasizing work on loons (Wisconsin), howler monkeys (Los Tuxtlas, Mexico), Argentine ants (Río Paraná de las Palmas and Rio Uruguay, Argentina), ravens (Grünau im Almtal, Austria), spotted hyenas (Maasai Mara Reserve, Kenya), and free-roaming dogs (Kolkata, India). The book also includes a cover image highlighting the male alliances among the Shark Bay Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins of Australia and eight full-color plates of a myriad of animals.

This publication also benefits from the inclusion of many engaging field accounts that offer firsthand and thoughtful perspectives into the role of power in the lives of nonhuman animals. The volume emphasizes key research programs and formative discoveries of leading senior and rising junior scientists that are shaping our understanding of this topic. Despite highlighting the experiences of many male and female researchers, most of the researchers are based at North American and European universities. This reflects the systemic biases in who has historically had the opportunity to conduct and publish scientific studies on animal power. I am excited to see follow-up books that more strongly highlight leadership emergence in animals across the breadth of taxa and include the perspectives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to reveal even more about the power dynamics of animals in nature.

JENNIFER E. SMITH, *Biology, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Wisconsin*