Untying the knot

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Untying the knot

Mechanistically understanding the interactions
between social foragers and their prey

Allert I. Bijleveld

1. Interference does not need to be visible to be substantial.
   Chapter 4

2. Communal roosts can be information centres for inadvertent information transfer.
   Chapter 5

3. The selection pressures that knots impose on cockles to grow fast with thick shells are among the highest reported in the literature.
   Chapter 8

4. Predator intake rates can decline with increasing prey density.
   Chapter 9

5. Knot personalities reflect foraging and movement strategies that amount to equal fitness.
   Chapter 7

6. Knots do not adjust their behaviour to the size of their gizzard; they attain a gizzard size that matches their personality.
   Contra van Gils et al. (2005), "Digestive bottleneck affects foraging decisions in red knots Calidris canutus", J. Anim. Ecol., vol. 74, pp. 120-130; Chapters 7; Chapter 9

7. Behavioural ecologists should keep reminding themselves that cause and function should not be reversed, i.e. animals don't act because they aim to maximise their fitness.
   Niko Tinbergen (1951) "The study of instinct"; Jerry Hogan (2014) "A framework for the study of behaviour", Behav. Process.; Chapter 9.

8. By the nature of their data ecologists are forced to apply state of-the-art statistical analyses that are nonetheless easy to apply with open-source software such as 'R'. In order to get reliable results, they should focus on ecology and collaborate with statisticians.

9. "While asking general questions led to limited answers, asking limited questions turned out to provide more and more general answers."
   François Jacob (1977), "Evolution and Tinkering", Science, vol. 196, p. 1162.

10. "Parts and wholes evolve in consequence of their relationship, and the relationship itself evolves."
    Richard Levins and Richard Lewontin (1985), "The Dialectical Biologist", p. 3.

11. Being close to the edge is a matter of personality.
    Theunis Piersma (1994), PhD thesis, "Close to the edge"; Chapter 7