

## EDUCATION

- 2014 – **University of Cambridge/Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) - PhD Zoology**  
2019  
Supervisors: Dr. Rose Thorogood and Dr. John Ewen  
Thesis: Effects of early-life social experiences on learning and conservation in a threatened passerine
- 2011 – **Royal Veterinary College/ZSL - MSc Wild Animal Biology (Merit)**  
2012  
Supervisor: Prof. Tim Blackburn  
Thesis: Range size determinants in introduced passerine birds
- 2008 – **Aberystwyth University - BSc (Hons) Zoology (1<sup>st</sup> Class)**  
2011  
3<sup>rd</sup> year supervisor: Dr. Rupert Marshall  
Dissertation: Social foraging and mechanisms of information transfer in guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*)
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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- July 2021 - **Freelance scientific consultant (collaboration with ZSL)**  
present  
Collaborator: Dr. John Ewen  
Role: Evaluate post-release monitoring approaches for tracking reintroduction outcomes in threatened hihi (*Notiomystis cincta*) to provide feedback for New Zealand government conservation group. Prepare report and research paper from results.
- Feb 2021 – **Independent postdoctoral researcher (collaboration with ZSL)**  
May 2021  
Collaborator: Dr. Patricia Brekke  
Role: Funded by personal Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour research grant to complete a project titled “*Uncovering the importance of genetics and environment for early-life sociality*”. Used social network analysis to uncover social association patterns and compared these to genetic and breeding data.
- Apr 2020 – **Royal Holloway, University of London – Postdoctoral research assistant**  
Jan 2021  
Supervisor: Prof. Elli Leadbeater  
Role: designed and conducted experiments investigating communication signals in foraging honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) as part of an ERC grant held by my supervisor. Analysed data and prepared research papers.
- Nov 2018 – **University of Cambridge - Postdoctoral research assistant**  
Aug 2019  
Supervisor: Dr. Rose Thorogood  
Role: prepared research papers from PhD thesis.
- Jan 2013 – **Institute of Zoology, ZSL – Research internship**  
May 2014  
Supervisor: Prof. Tim Blackburn  
Role: managed and analysed a database (> 27 000 records) of alien avian introductions and extracted data from associated GIS maps of species range sizes.
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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Nov 2021 - **University of Chester - Lecturer in Animal Behaviour (fixed-term)**  
present  
Role: prepare and deliver lectures and seminars for BSc and MSc modules; supervise student research projects; run third-year dissertation statistical support workshops; contribute to assessment management and marking, and tutoring.
- Nov 2013 - **Royal Veterinary College/ZSL – Group learning facilitator (casual contract)**  
present  
Role: assist groups of MSc students using Problem-Based Learning scenarios. Prepare and mark short- and long-format exam questions.

- 2019            **University of Helsinki – MSc project supervisor**  
Role: one-to-one supervision of fieldwork in New Zealand and data analysis.
- 2015 –        **University of Cambridge – BSc project supervisor**  
2017            Role: gave one-to-one supervision of project design and data analysis for three undergraduate students
- 2016            **University of Cambridge – BSc residential ecology field course demonstrator**  
Role: assisted with field study design, implementation, and data analysis for approx. 30 third-year BSc students
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## PUBLICATIONS

- Franks V.R.**, Ewen J.G., McCready M. & Thorogood R. (2020) Juvenile foraging behaviour changes with social environment. *Proc. R. Soc. B: Biological Sciences* **287**:20201878. DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2020.1878
- Franks V.R.**, Ewen J.G., McCready M., Rowcliffe J.M., Smith D. & Thorogood R. (2020) Analysing age structure, residency and relatedness uncovers social network structure in aggregations of young birds. *Animal Behav.* 166:73-84. DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2020.06.005
- Franks V.R.**, Andrews C.E., Ewen J.G., McCready M., Parker K.A. & Thorogood R. (2020) Changes in social groups across reintroductions and effects on post-release survival. *Anim. Conserv.* 23: 443-454. DOI: 10.1111/acv.12557 \*in the top 15 most downloaded papers for the journal in 2020
- Franks V.R.**, McCready M., Savage J.L. & Thorogood R. (2019) Time spent with parents varies with early-life condition, but does not predict survival or sociality of juvenile hihi. *Front. Ecol. Evo.* 7:322. DOI: 10.3389/fevo.2019.00322 \*invited contribution to special issue
- Franks V.R.** & Thorogood, R. (2018) Older and wiser? Age differences in foraging and learning by an endangered passerine. *Behav. Processes* 148:1-9. DOI: 10.1016/j.beproc.2017.12.009
- Dyer E.E., Cassey P., Redding D.W., Collen B., **Franks V.**, Gaston K.J., Jones K.E., Kark S., Orme C.D. & Blackburn T.M. (2017) The global distribution and drivers of alien bird species richness. *PLoS Biol.* 15: e2000942. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pbio.2000942
- Dyer E.E., **Franks V.**, Cassey P., Collen B., Cope R.C., Jones K.E., Şekercioğlu Ç.H. & Blackburn T.M. (2016), A global analysis of the determinants of alien geographical range size in birds. *Global Ecol. Biogeogr.*, 25: 1346–1355. DOI:10.1111/geb.12496
- Franks V.R.** & Marshall R.C. (2013) Mechanisms and extent of information transfer in socially foraging guppies, *Poecilia reticulata*. *Animal Behav.* 85:103-108. DOI: 10.1016/j.anbehav.2012.10.013

### Submitted manuscripts:

† denotes equal contribution

Hasenjager M.J.†, **Franks V.R.**† & Leadbeater E. Dances drive collective behaviour: a review of honeybee signalling. *Behavioural Ecology & Sociobiology* \*invited review

### In preparation:

**Franks V.R.**, Thorogood R. & Brekke P. Intergenerational effects from spatial and genetic environment predict early-life social network structure.

**Franks V.R.**, Hasenjager M.J., Vierbuchen M.V. & Leadbeater, E. Honeybee dance signals are elicited by both hive-internal and -external cues to regulate collective foraging effort.

Hasenjager M.J., Hoppitt W., Cunningham-Eurich I., **Franks V.R.** & Leadbeater E. Coupled information networks drive honeybee collective foraging.

Other:

**Franks V.R.**, Ewen J.G. & Thorogood R. (2018) Importance of social connections for winter survival of juvenile hihi *Notiomystis cincta* in New Zealand. *BOU-funded project report*

**Franks V.R.** (2010) Social dynamics in a pride of captive Asiatic lions (*Panthera leo persica*) at Cotswold Wildlife Park. *RATEL (Journal of ABWAK)*, **26**: 22-27

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## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2022 University of Chester Staff Conference Attendance Fund (£500): to attend European Conference on Behavioural Biology 2022 for talk entitled "Genetic and ecological drivers of early-life social structure in juvenile bird"
- 2020 Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) Research Grant (£9440): "Uncovering the importance of genetics and environment for early-life sociality"  
Poster prize at ASAB 2020 Winter Conference
- 2018 Runner-up poster prize at ECBB 2018, Liverpool  
Runner-up Pecha Kucha talk prize at Departmental Seminar Day, University of Cambridge  
Cambridge Philosophical Society Research Studentship Award (£1500)
- 2017 University of Cambridge Darwin College Travel Fund (£150)
- 2015 British Ornithologist's Union (BOU) Small Ornithological Research Grant (£1765): "Importance of social connections for winter survival of juvenile hihi"
- 2014 Cambridge Zoology Graduate Research Costs Fund (£1675)  
Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge Balfour PhD Studentship (fees and maintenance costs: £60 000)
- 2012 MSc Wild Animal Biology Course Prize - highest aggregate marks
- 2011 Winner of Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Awards Best Biology Student through a European-wide competition  
Aileen Smith Memorial Prize - best performance in undergraduate field work
- 2009 Sarah Jane Cross Memorial Prize - best performance in first-year BSc Zoology
- 2008 Aberystwyth University three-year Excellence Bursary

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED SEMINARS

- 2020 **ASAB Winter Conference, online**  
Foraging behaviour alters with social environment in a juvenile songbird (*Poster*)  
**Invited seminar, Palmero University**  
Effect of early-life social experiences on learning and conservation in a threatened passerine  
**Invited seminar, Emporia State University**  
Effect of early-life social experiences on learning and conservation in a threatened passerine  
**Animal Behaviour Live Conference, online**  
Social group changes across reintroductions and effects on survival (*Talk*)
- 2019 **ZSL Annual Science Conference, Institute of Zoology**  
Friends with benefits? Changes in social groups across reintroductions (*Talk*)
- 2018 **Behaviour for Conservation International Symposium, Institute of Zoology**  
Are social groups important for reintroductions? (*Poster*)

- 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference for Behavioural Biology, Liverpool John Moore University**  
Are social groups important for reintroductions? (*Poster*)
- 5<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Conservation Biology, Jyväskylä**  
Is group familiarity important in conservation translocations? (*Talk*)
- Department of Zoology Seminar Day, University of Cambridge**  
Copy parents or follow friends? (*Pecha Kucha talk*)
- 2017 **35<sup>th</sup> International Ethological Conference/ASAB Summer Conference, Estoril**  
Copy parents or follow friends? Juvenile foraging changes with social environment (*Talk*)
- 2016 **16<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society for Behavioural Ecology, Exeter University**  
Older and wiser? Young songbirds are slower learners than adults (*Poster*)
- 2015 **ASAB Summer Conference, University of Lincoln**  
Social behaviour and learning in young hihi (*Notiomystis cincta*) (*Poster*)
- 2012 **Institute of Zoology Annual Research Conference, London**  
Range size determinants in introduced passerine birds (*Invited speaker*)
- ASAB Easter Conference, Aberystwyth University**  
Brains or daring: Mechanisms and extent of information transfer in fish shoals (*Talk*)

## OUTREACH

- 2022 “Can understanding animal personalities help us to improve conservation?”: speaker at online live event organised by ZSL. The event has since had >2000 views on YouTube.
- 2021 “Hihi Science Event 2021”: speaker at a live online public event (>200 attendees)
- 2020 “Hihi Science Evening”: co-organiser and host for an online public event (>200 attendees)
- 2019 “Hihi Conservation” stand at Zoology Live! event at Museum of Zoology, Cambridge  
“Friends with benefits? Are groups important for conservation translocations” talk to general public at Hihi Recovery Group outreach event
- 2018 “The social lives of young hihi” talk to volunteer group
- 2016 “How hihi learn” talk to general public at Hihi Recovery Group outreach event
- 2012 BBC Radio Wales Science Café interview on social learning in guppies
- General Written articles for member-only magazines, and research blog websites  
Skype interviews with secondary school and undergraduate students

## OTHER SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Training Mental Health First Aid half-day course (MHFA England)  
University of Chester Safeguarding course
- IT Proficient use of word processing, data managing, referencing, and statistical software programmes (Microsoft Office suite: Word/Excel/PowerPoint, R, Mendeley, Program MARK, ESRI ArcGIS, QGIS, Minitab)
- Reviewing Reviewed for *Biological Reviews*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Behavioural Ecology*, *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, *PeerJ*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *IBIS*
- Professional membership The Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, British Ornithologist’s Union, British Ecological Society, Hihi Recovery Group
- Representation & leadership Zoology Department Graduate Representative (2015-2016)  
Lead organiser for Zoology Department Christmas Parties (2014 & 2015)  
Vice-captain for Darwin College Boat Club, Cambridge (2015-2016)

Communication Officer for Darwin College Student Association, Cambridge  
(2016)

Secondary education      A-Levels: 5 B-C; GCSEs: 12 A\* or A (including Maths, English, Double Science)  
Asset Languages Grade 2 Mandarin

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## REFEREES

**Prof. Andrew Lawrence**, Associate Dean and Head of Biological Sciences; address: Department of Biological Sciences, University of Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ; email: a.lawrence@chester.ac.uk

**Dr. John Ewen**, Senior Research Fellow; address: Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY; email: john.ewen@ioz.ac.uk

**Prof. Elli Leadbeater**, Professor of Ecology & Evolution; address: Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour, Department of Biological Sciences, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX; email: elli.leadbeater@rhul.ac.uk