

## 9.20

### Classes #16: Foraging Monday Oct 17, 2005

*Reading:* Scott ch 6, pp 119-142.

*Study questions:*

1. Does the level of foraging or hunting activity depend on the amount of hunger?  
Could it be independent of hunger?
2. What is conditioned taste aversion (discovered in rats by John Garcia)? Is it really “a form of classical conditioning” (p 122)?
3. How (and why) would you expect neophobia in feeding behavior to change with (a) hunger level, and (b) age?
4. Give two strong reasons why foraging in a group of herbivores may be better for an animal (like a bird) than foraging alone.
5. Does the same reasoning apply to carnivores in their hunting behavior? Explain.
6. What is meant by the term “optimal foraging”? What should a foraging animal optimize (in quantitative terms)?
7. What is meant by “the ideal free distribution” in a description of foraging by groups of animals?
8. Conflict is frequently faced by a foraging animal. Describe an observed relationship between foraging or hunting behavior of a species and the presence of a predator of that species.