Contents

Preface ix
List of contributors xiii

Introduction: A primer on information and influence in animal communication 1
Ulrich E. Stegmann

Part I Varieties of information 41

1 Influence and information in communication networks 43
Andrew G. Horn and Peter K. McGregor

2 Animal communication as information-mediated influence 63
Andrea Scarantino

3 Communication as information use: insights from statistical decision theory 89
Caitlin R. Kight, John M. McNamara, David W. Stephens and Sasha R. X. Dall

4 Communication as a transfer of information: measurement, mechanism and meaning 113
R. Haven Wiley

5 Natural information, intentional signs and animal communication 133
Ruth G. Millikan
Part II Influence and manipulation

6 Communication without meaning or information: abandoning language-based and informational constructs in animal communication theory 151
   Drew Rendall and Michael J. Owren

7 Information in animal communication: when and why does it matter? 189
   Sahotra Sarkar

8 Mitogenetic rays and the information metaphor: transmitted information has had its day 207
   Eugene S. Morton and Richard G. Coss

9 The importance of integrative biology to sexual selection and communication 233
   Michael J. Ryan

Part III Case studies

10 Animal signals: always influence, sometimes information 259
   Claire Horisk and Reginald B. Cockroft

11 Learned signals and consistency of delivery: a case against receiver manipulation in animal communication 281
   Carlos A. Botero and Selvino R. de Kort

12 Information, inference and meaning in primate vocal behaviour 297
   Julia Fischer

13 Information and uncertainty in meerkats and monkeys 319
   Colin Allen

14 The neural representation of vocalisation perception 337
   Kate L. Christison-Lagay and Yale E. Cohen

Part IV Animal signals in evolutionary perspective

15 The value of information in signals and cues 357
   Michael Lachmann
16 Information and influence in sender–receiver models, with applications to animal behaviour 377
PETER GODFREY-SMITH

Part V From animal signals to human language 397

17 Information, meaning and animal communication 399
FRED ADAMS AND STEVE M. BEIGHLEY

18 Information, influence and inference in language evolution 421
THOMAS C. SCOTT-PHILLIPS AND SIMON KIRBY

Index 443