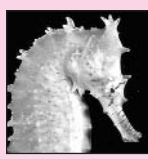



LOVE,
aquarium~style



Animal courtship can be wild, wacky and sometimes just plain weird. See how many courtship behaviors you can spot as you journey through the Tennessee Aquarium.



SEAHORSES
Seahorse Gallery, Level A
 Seahorse courtship looks much like a slow, underwater waltz, and the male often changes color. The ritual can last up to nine hours. Strangest of all, it's the male seahorse that carries the babies!



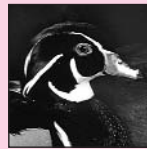
SONGBIRDS
Cove Forest, Level 4
 Many songbirds have plumage that varies greatly from male to female. For example, male cardinals and male eastern bluebirds are typically more brilliantly colored than females. The bright feathers of the males attracts the attention of the females.



BROOK TROUT
Cove Forest, Level 4
 During spawning season, the bright colors and hooked lower jaw distinguish male brook trout from the females. The brighter the colors and the larger the hooked jaw, the more attractive the male is to the female.



AMERICAN ALLIGATOR
Discovery Hall & Delta Country, Level 3
 Alligator courtship consists of a complex sequence of snout-touching, bellowing, "coughing," back-rubbing, circling, bubble-blowing, and swimming together that can last for minutes or even hours and is performed repeatedly during the courtship period.



WOOD DUCK
Delta Country, Level 3
 Male wood ducks exhibit brilliant colors during courtship. These birds have many courtship behaviors. Usually, the female repeatedly flicks her bill back over shoulder. Her mate responds by raising wings and tail, turning the back of his head to her, and swimming away.



TURTLES
Delta Country, Level 3
 The males of the pond turtle species go to great lengths to express their intent. Brandishing his long "fingernails," the persistent male swims in front of or just above the female and waves his long nails in her face.



BLUE TANG
Gulf of Mexico, Canyon
 Male blue tangs use the bony spines at the base of their tails like daggers and "duel" with one another for the females.



SERGEANT MAJOR
Gulf of Mexico, Canyon
 The male sergeant major fish becomes extremely territorial during courtship and reproduction. Also, males often turn a deep blue shade to attract females.

TENNESSEE AQUARIUM

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