

ASAB Newsletter

Summer 2010



Dear ASAB member,

Welcome to the Summer 2010 ASAB Newsletter. We would like to draw your attention to a number of upcoming Society events and deadlines:

Winter ASAB Meeting 2010: Interspecific Communication

2nd - 3rd December, Zoological Society of London meeting rooms, Regent's Park, London, UK

Registration: FREE! Just turn up!

Deadline for abstract submission extended: 31st August 2010.

Signalling and communication, in the context of sexual selection, has been one of the dominant research areas in animal behaviour for the last three decades. The 2010 Winter ASAB conference will instead focus on interspecific communication. This topic is rich in terms of extraordinary natural history and the theory needed to understand what is going on, and has profound implications for evolution and ecology.

Sub-themes include: host manipulation by parasites (including brood parasites), plant-pollinator interactions, anti-predator defensive signals, the evolution of mutualism, and alarm-calling.

The plenary speakers will be:

- * **Redouan Bshary** (Univ Neuchâtel, Switzerland)
- * **Lars Chittka** (Queen Mary College, Univ London, UK)
- * **Leena Lindstrom** (Univ Jyväskylä, Finland)
- * **Rob Magrath** (Australian National Univ, Canberra, Australia)

The meeting is, as always, also host to ASAB's annual Tinbergen lecture.

This year's invited speaker is **Laurent Keller** of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

We are now seeking contributed talks and posters to complement the exceptional invited speakers.

Please send abstracts of potential contributions, using the downloadable abstract form

<<http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk/downloads/winter2010abstractform.doc>>

to adi.whitty@bristol.ac.uk (putting 'ASAB conference' in the subject header).

Forthcoming ASAB conferences: themes and organizers sought!

We are currently seeking organizers and locations for the Winter Meeting 2011 and the Easter Meeting & Postgraduate Workshop 2012.

The Winter Meeting is traditionally held at the Zoological Society of London Meeting Rooms, Regent's Park, London, UK, and is a themed meeting. The Easter Meeting is held at different University locations in the UK, does not have a specific theme, and prioritizes presentations by student and early postdoctoral researchers. It is preceded by a Postgraduate Workshop.

If you would like to offer to host one of these meetings, please contact the acting Secretary, Dave Shuker (david.shuker@st-andrews.ac.uk), as soon as possible. Suggestions will initially be considered at the Winter Meeting of ASAB Council, in early December 2010.

Nominations for Council Officers & Members

Deadline for nominations: *1st October 2010*.

There are a number of vacancies available on ASAB Council, with terms commencing in January 2011. In the case of Executive Editor of the journal, the term starts on 1st July 2011. We currently have vacancies for: Treasurer, Secretary of the Education Committee, Secretary of the European Committee, three Ordinary Members of Council, Executive Editor of *Animal Behaviour*, and 2 editors of *Animal Behaviour*.

Nominations from the membership are encouraged, and will be considered at the Council Meeting during the Winter ASAB Conference in early December 2010. Nominations must be submitted in writing, signed by at least two ASAB members, and be accompanied by the candidate's signed statement of acceptance. These should be sent to the acting Secretary, Dave Shuker (david.shuker@st-andrews.ac.uk): School of Biology, University of St Andrews, Harold Mitchell Building, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9TH, UK.

ASAB / New Scientist Science Writing Prize

Closing date for entries: 5 pm, *31st October 2010*.

We want people to hear about the cutting edge of research straight from the horse's mouth -- from the people doing the work in the field. So, we are looking for research scientists who can convey the excitement and importance of their research to write about the work they do.

You need to be involved in research and able to write an article about any research topic in animal behaviour in the style that will entertain and inform readers of *New Scientist*. There are no restrictions in terms of age, stage of career or previous publishing experience. Submit an article of 1000 words - the prize for the winner is £1000 and publication by *New Scientist*.

To enter fill out the downloadable application form on the website
<http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk/downloads/prize_applic_2010.doc>, attach your article and email the form to the ASABScienceWritingPrize@gmail.com

Should you have students, friends or colleagues who might be interested in applying, a flier
<http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk/downloads/prize_flier_2010.ppt> advertising the prize can also be downloaded here.

Membership renewals

A quick reminder that membership renewals are due in ***October 2010***.

All queries regarding membership should be directed to the Membership Secretary, Sue Healy (susan.healy@st-andrews.ac.uk).

Please remember that the operation of the E-news system relies on the Society possessing current email addresses for all members!

So please update your address details regularly by contacting the Membership Secretary.

We are also aware that the E-news is not reaching all our members currently - if you know of a member who feels they have lost contact with the Society, please encourage them to visit the ASAB web site <<http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk>> where they can access contact details for both the Membership Secretary and Newsletter/Web Editor and we will follow up the matter.

Christopher Barnard Award for Outstanding Contributions by a New Investigator

Deadline for nominations: *1st November 2010*.

ASAB Council recognizes that there are many excellent young researchers in the field of animal behaviour whose work will shape the future of our discipline. The ASAB Outstanding Young Investigator Award is given each year to acknowledge and reward the achievements of such researchers. The award takes the form of a research grant of £1000 and the recipient is asked to give a keynote talk about their work at the Easter meeting of ASAB (expenses paid).

*Members of ASAB *are invited to nominate one or more candidates for the 2011 Award, to be presented at the 2011 Easter meeting. Self nominations are both acceptable and encouraged. The nomination form can be downloaded here <http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk/downloads/cbaform_2011.doc>. Please use a separate copy of the form for each person you wish to nominate. The form should be accompanied by a full CV of the nominated candidate, the names of 3 referees and an account written by the nominator of up to 300 words describing the nominee's research. Please remember that this award is made solely for achievement in research.

Nominations should be submitted to the acting Secretary, Dave Shuker (david.shuker@st-andrews.ac.uk): School of Biology, University of St Andrews, Harold Mitchell Building, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9TH, UK.

Please note that applications for which all materials (including all references) are not received by the deadline cannot be considered.

A final note...

Further information concerning all the above events and awards can be found on the ASAB web site <<http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk>>, along with information about ASAB Grants, forthcoming ASAB conferences and View articles from our recent conferences, and the activities of the ASAB Accreditation, Education, Ethics, European, Media & Policy committees.

This will be my final E-newsletter, and from now on you will be in the capable hands of the new Newsletter/Web Editor, Lisa Collins (ASABNewsletterEditor@gmail.com). Please contact Lisa if you would like to submit notices for the ASAB web site, or have queries concerning this E-newsletter or the Animal Behaviour mailing list. Meanwhile, I shall be developing a new web site for the Society, which we hope to unveil in December 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on ASAB Council, and of course our membership, who have made the role of Newsletter/Web Editor a rewarding one over the last 8 years.

With best wishes,

Anahita Kazem