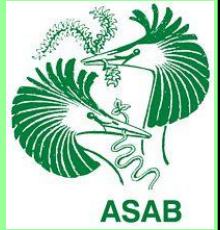


ASAB Newsletter

Autumn 2010



A note from the (new!) Newsletter Editor...

Dear ASAB member,

Welcome to the Autumn 2010 edition of the ASAB Newsletter! Autumn has always seemed to me to be an exciting time full of the promise of fresh beginnings, a time to sharpen your pencils for the year ahead. It is perhaps particularly appropriate then, that it is in this Autumn edition that I write to you as your new Newsletter Editor. I'm excited to be here, and look forward to writing to you regularly for the next few years. ASAB itself is full of Autumnal promise, with the upcoming Winter conference in London to look forward to, as well as our fast-approaching ASAB Science Writing competition deadline. Also, be sure to keep a close eye on the ASAB website for all the latest information - and if you're job-hunting, remember to check the vacancies notice board for many exciting job opportunities based around the globe.

We are keen for ASAB members to get involved with the Newsletter, so if you have any news or comments to include in the future editions, or if our student members wish to get involved in any way, please do contact me at ASABNewsletterEditor@gmail.com. I know there have been a few problems with the e-Newsletter not reaching some members over the last few months. We've been doing our best over the Summer to get the mailing list up to date, but if you are still experiencing problems receiving the e-Newsletter, or you know someone else who is, please get in touch. We want to keep everyone informed about the news, events and opportunities coming up, so don't suffer in silence!

On a final note, it is with regret that we say farewell to our ASAB Education Officer, Michael Dockery, this Autumn. Michael has put in an extraordinary level of effort over the years and we would like to say a huge thank you and wish him good luck in his retirement.

With all best wishes,

Lisa Collins

In the news...

A brief look at some of the animal behaviour coverage in the media this Autumn

The **Listen to the Deep Ocean Environment (LIDO)** site offers everyone the opportunity to be armchair voyeurs and listen in to the private lives of whales and dolphins. The site, developed by Michel André of the Barcelona Technical University of Catalonia, is linked to 10 hydrophones placed around European and Canadian waters and is designed to monitor bioacoustics on a large spatial and temporal scale. www.listentothedeep.net

Not-so-busy bees are the result when the social environment of a hive is altered, changing individual bees' roles and their body clocks. An article published by Bloch et al in the September 15 issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience* showed that bees playing a nursing role in the hive completely altered their circadian rhythms and behaviour when removed from the larvae they ordinarily care for.

Red faced vultures win social contests for food. A study by Bamford et al at the University of Nottingham showed that head and throat colouration on Lappet-faced vultures correlated with the outcomes of social interactions. Previously, it had been thought that outcomes were based on aggression levels alone, but this study shows that vultures also use other indicators of status in weighing up competitors. In *Ethology* October 2010.

The **European Parliament** plenary session adopted the common position text for the new Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes without further amendment, completing the legislative process. The full text is online at: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st06/st06106.en10.pdf>.

* New Online Membership Payment System *

The day is finally nearing for the going live of our new electronic membership subscription payment system. We are aware that in the past couple of years payment of subscription fees has been both expensive and awkward for many of our members, especially those living outside the UK. We are very sorry about this and very much hope that the system that will be in place by the end of October will change this.

In addition to being able to pay online via a PayPal site, you will receive automatic renewal reminders and be able to update your contact details at your own convenience.

Please note: those members paying by standing order or who prefer to pay by cheque or direct bank transfer will still be able to pay by these methods also in the future.

Direct contact with the Membership Secretary (susan.healy@st-andrews.ac.uk [<mailto:susan.healy@st-andrews.ac.uk>](mailto:susan.healy@st-andrews.ac.uk)) for all issues concerning membership and access to the journal will continue as before.

Final chance to get your entries in for the 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/media/sciencewritingprize.php>,

and email to: ASABScienceWritingPrize@gmail.com.

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 at: 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.

Education Report

The promotion of a free copy of our Biology DVD Stimulus Response continued in 2010 and the current total (31 August) we have sent out is 1850! ASAB, and the animal charity that funded the promotion, have been delighted by this response from schools.

Our e-newsletter, Feedback, continues to grow and editions now are invariably over 40 pages. One especially pleasing feature is the increasing number of PhD students who are keen to write animal cameos of their research animal and we have recently been able to include three, and sometimes, four, cameos in each issue. Any ASAB member who would like to receive our e-newsletter can e-mail the Education Officer and he will happily add you to the database – m.dockery@mmu.ac.uk.

The number of educational resources continues to develop at a steady rate. In the last 6 months we have produced one for 9 – 11 year old pupils, The behaviour of brine shrimps, and three others will hopefully be available by the end of the year. A complete list of our resources are found on the final page of our e-newsletter. Most are available free and it will be possible to download them from the website very soon.

Rupert Marshall (Aberystwyth University) will be giving the ASAB lecture at the Association for Science Education Winter Meeting at University of Reading in January 2010 – the title of Rupert's talk is 'Birdsong: sing it again Sam'.

The Science Quiz that the Education Officer

organizes each March at St Monica's Primary School each year was as exciting as ever but it was made more so as the four teams were competing for the inaugural ASAB Science Shield. In the final the winning house just edged out their opponents by a single point! The winning team are pictured below, with the Education Officer.

ASAB Council has recently been able to appoint Dr Rob Thomas (University of Cardiff) as the Secretary of the Education Committee and we hope he enjoys his time with us. One of the first tasks will be to appoint the new ASAB Education Officer as the incumbent, Michael Dockery, retires on 31 December 2010.

Michael Dockery



Permission for use from: Lousie Davies, Headteacher of St Monica's Primary School, Flixton, Manchester.

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!

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.

The scientific programme is now available to download from the ASAB website.

Summer ASAB Meeting 2011: Understanding animal intelligence

18th-19th August 2011, University of St Andrews, UK

Organisers: Gillian Brown, Carl Smith and Kevin Laland

Plenary speakers:

- * **Louis Lefebvre** (McGill)
- * **Tom Seeley** (Cornell)
- * **Susanne Shultz** (Oxford)
- * **Elisabetta Visalberghi** (Rome)

Animals engage in complex behaviour and respond flexibly to a range of environmental and social parameters, in an apparently intelligent manner. How can we define animal intelligence, and how is intelligence manifested across different taxonomic groups? What selective pressures might have led to evolution of intelligence in some species? To what extent does behavioural flexibility rely on complex mental capacities and large brains? How is intelligence generated through the collective decisions of multiple individuals? What might the study of animal intelligence tell us about human beings? These example topics, and other relevant questions, will be addressed at the conference.

The conference will provide a combination of plenaries from leaders in the field and novel work from new and established investigators. The talks will ideally cover the breadth of animal taxonomic groups, include proximate and evolutionary perspectives on intelligence, and portray theoretical and experimental research findings. The conference talks will be complemented by posters and social events for delegates.

Joint Meeting of the British Ecological Society, The Biochemical Society and the Society for Experimental Biology

Stress response - molecules, organisms and environments

4th-7th January 2011, Charles Darwin House, London, UK

This collaborative event will showcase leading research on stress responses, and will aim to develop cross-disciplinary research in this area. A distinguished list of international speakers will cover studies from biochemistry and gene regulatory networks through organisms to ecophysiology, behaviour and ecology.

For more information, see the website: <http://www.jointstress.org/>

Behavior 2011

July 25th-30th 2011, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

This will be the first-ever joint meeting of two international behaviour societies: the International Ethological Conference and the Animal Behavior Society. The goal of this meeting is to foster interdisciplinary communication and collaboration among behavioural biologists working in a broad array of disciplines, from around the world.

For information about the meeting, please visit the meeting website at www.indiana.edu/~behav11

Forthcoming ASAB conferences: seeking themes and organizers!

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.