

ASAB Newsletter

Summer 2013



A note from the Newsletter Editor...

Dear ASAB member,

Welcome to the Summer 2013 edition of the ASAB Newsletter! We're gearing up for a fantastic ASAB-IEC Summer meeting in a few weeks time at the Sage Centre in Newcastle Gateshead. The scientific program is available to download from the conference website (www.iec2013.com) and promises a huge variety of exciting speakers. There's still time to book your place if you are yet to do so! During the meeting, ASAB will also be holding its annual general meeting, to which all ASAB members are invited. The agenda for this meeting is featured on page 3. Please do feel free to get in touch with the ASAB Secretary, Dave Shuker, with any comments you wish to pass on if you cannot attend in person.

We are also fast approaching the deadline for the 2014 ASAB Medal nominations, which has been extended to July 31st this year. Nomination details can be found on page 2.

Finally, ASAB has joined the Twitterati! You can follow us to get news and updates on interesting research articles, conferences and awards. I hope you enjoy catching up on all the news from ASAB since the Spring, and have a lovely Summer!

With all best wishes,

Lisa Collins

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In the news...

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

A study published in *Animal Behaviour* recently found that **chimpanzee personalities are like humans'** (Weiss et al 2013, *Anim. Beh.* 83:1355-1365). The study showed that chimpanzees share all five of the dimensions of human personality, and that this cannot simply be explained by observer bias and anthropomorphism.

Cornell researchers studying Australian social huntsman spiders have discovered that **younger siblings thrive when raised in nests with older siblings**. Bigger brothers and sisters capture bigger, juicier prey, which they – at least occasionally – share with their younger siblings (Yip & Rayor 2013, *Anim. Beh.* 85: 1161-1168).

By manipulating colony size and the ability to communicate location information in the dance, Donaldson-Matasci at the University of Arizona in Tucson and her team showed that **larger colonies of honeybees benefit more from communication than small colonies**. In fact, colony size and dance communication worked together to improve foraging performance; the estimated net gain per foraging trip was highest in larger colonies with unimpaired communications (Donaldson-Matasci et al 2013, *Anim. Beh.* 85: 585-592; covered in *Nature* 496:8).

ASAB Medal 2014 nominations

The ASAB Medal, specially designed by Jonathan Kingdon and struck in bronze, is awarded annually for contributions to the science of animal behaviour - through teaching, writing, broadcasting, research, through fostering any of these activities, or through contributing to the affairs of ASAB itself. There is no limitation on age or career stage. Council intends the medal not only to provide an appropriate way of recognising distinction in our field, but also to contribute to raising the profile of ASAB and the field of animal behaviour in the wider scientific community.

Members of ASAB are invited to nominate one or more candidates for the 2014 Award, to be presented at the 2014 Summer meeting. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the ASAB website <http://asab.nottingham.ac.uk/awards/medal.php>. Please use a separate form for each individual you wish to nominate.

The completed form(s) must reach the ASAB Secretary by **31st July 2013**.

ASAB Annual General Meeting 2013

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

The 2013 AGM will be held at 1pm on the Monday 5th August, 2013, Hall 2, Sage Conference Centre, Gateshead.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Officers' reports
5. Election of Council Members and Editors (see below)
6. Any other business

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2012/13 (Summer 2012-Easter 2013 inclusive)

In accordance with Bye-Law 24, the following information is provided for members. Council has met three times during the last year. The names of Officers and Council Members, together with their attendance at meetings are given below. The first figure is the actual attendance; the second is the number of meetings the member was eligible to attend.

Officers

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| President: | Jane Hurst (2/2) | Tim Birkhead (1/1) |
| Secretary: | Candy Rowe (1/3) | David Shuker (1/1) |
| Treasurer: | Matt Gage (3/3) | |
| Executive Editor: | Ana Sendova-Franks (2/3) | |
| Newsletter Editor: | Lisa Collins (1/3) | |
| Secretary of the Ethical Committee: | Lyne Sneddon (0/3) | |
| Secretary of the Education Committee: | Rob Thomas (3/3) | |
| Secretary of the Grants Committee: | Tom Pizzari (1/2) | Paula Stockley (3/3) |
| European Secretary: | Leonida Fusani (3/3) | |
| Secretary of the Accreditation Committee: | Emily Blackwell (2/3) | |
| Secretary of the Media & Policy Committee: | Sasha Dall (3/3) | |

Council Members

Lotta Kvarnemo (1/3); Stefan Leitner (3/3); Andy Radford (2/3), Melissa Bateson (1/1)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

There are vacancies for: two Ordinary Member of Council, and five Editors of *Animal Behaviour*. Nominees for these positions need to have suitable experience, and Council nominates the following:

2 Ordinary Council Members: **Redouan Bshary** (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland) and **John Skelhorn** (University of Newcastle, UK)

5 *Animal Behaviour* Editors: **Theresa Burt de Perera** (University Lecturer in Animal Behaviour, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, UK); **Marie (Mariella) Herberstein** (Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, NSW, Australia); **Alan McElligott** (Lecturer, School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary, University of London, UK); **Tomasz Osiejuk** (Department of Behavioural Ecology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland); **Patricia Backwell** (Research School of Biology, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia).

Any alternative nominations from the membership must be signed by at least two members, be accompanied by the candidate's signed statement of acceptance, and must reach the Secretary before the start of the AGM.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 20 July 2012

The 2012 AGM was held at the University of Essen during the ECBB meeting, on Friday 20th July 2012, at 17.30. Nine ASAB members were present along with Ana Sendova-Franks, Leonida Fusani, Rob Thomas, Matt Gage, Stefan Leitner, Sasha Dall, and Paula Stockley, with the President, Prof Jane Hurst, took the chair.

1. Apologies were received from: Candy Rowe, Tom Pizzari, Lynne Sneddon, Nina Wedell, Lisa Collins, Lotta Kvarnemo, Andy Radford, Emily Blackwell.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

3. Matters arising from the minutes:

3.1 Attendance at winter meetings remains free for all members, and organisers of ASAB summer meetings will be asked to consider offering reduced registration fees for retired members.

3.2 More information on funding and the Grants Committee has been added to ASAB website as requested.

4. The following reports were presented:

Secretary

Treasurer

Executive Editor

Newsletter Editor

Secretary of the Ethical Committee

Secretary of the Education Committee

Secretary of the Grants Committee

Secretary of the European Committee

Secretary of the Accreditation Committee

Secretary of the Media & Policy Committee

During the presentation of the reports, the following questions were raised and discussed:

Tim Birkhead asked RT how easy was it to promote animal behaviour within schools in the UK when teaching is driven by specific curriculum requirements? RT replied that the approaches currently used were working okay.

5. The following were then duly elected (carried *nem con*):

President: Tim Birkhead (nominated by Matt Gage, seconded by Fritz Trillmich).

Secretary: David Shuker (nominated by Sasha Dall, seconded by Rob Thomas).

Grants Secretary: Paula Stockley (nominated by Ana-Sedova Franks, seconded by Leonida Fusani).

Accreditation Secretary: Emily Blackwell (nominated by Leonida Fusani).

Media Secretary: Sasha Dall (nominated by Tim Birkhead, seconded by Fritz Trillmich).

European Secretary: Leonida Fusani (nominated by Stefan Leitner, seconded by Ana Sendova-Franks).

2 Ordinary members of Council:

Rupert Marshall (nominated by Stefan Leitner, seconded by Rob Thomas).

Melissa Bateson (nominated by Matt Gage, seconded Fritz Trillmich).

5 *Animal Behaviour* Editors:

Bob Elwood (nominated by Paula Stockley, seconded by Sasha Dall).

Raphael Jeanson (nominated by Ana Sendova-Franks, seconded by Leonida Fusani).

Nichola Raihini (nominated by Paula Stockley, seconded by Jane Hurst).

Alexandre Roulin (nominated by Stefan Leitner seconded by Tim Birkhead).

Kees van Oers (nominated by Fritz Trillmich, seconded by Sasha Dall).

Andrew King (nominated by Paula Stockley, seconded by Ana Sendova-Franks).

6. AOB

Jane Hurst noted that it was her last AGM meeting as ASAB President and thanked the council members for all their hard work, especially Candy Rowe as Secretary and Dave Shuker who helped with this role, Nina Wedell and Matt Gage as Treasurers, Lisa Collins for updating ASAB's website and newsletters, and all the Secretaries of all the ASAB Committees for keeping everything running. Thanks were also due to Louise Barrett and Ana Sendova-Franks for all their work as Executive Editors of *Animal Behaviour*, which has promoted rising impact of the journal. The success of *Animal Behaviour* is very important to the society and will benefit further if members continue to submit high quality papers to the journal.

Thanks to Jane on behalf of the Council and membership for all her hard work as ASAB President.

The meeting closed at 18.25.

* View from the Conference: ASAB Easter Conference, Lincoln, 2013 *

Lincoln is a beautiful little student town with a vibrant fresh atmosphere. In the midst of this setting on the 3rd of April the 2013 ASAB Easter meeting kicked off with a day of interesting talks on the newest methods in sensory ecology.

Right after the very warm welcome by the organizers Anna Wilkinson and Tom Pike, Martin Schäfer from the University of Freiburg enlightened us on how we can try to simulate colour vision from the animal's point of view. Thereafter Tom Pike himself gave a very useful introduction on how to use digital cameras as a cheap and practicable alternative to more expensive methods of colour analysis.

In the afternoon Anna Wilkinson elaborated on the use of touchscreens as a means to investigate categorisation, the link between perception and cognition. Kun Guo, also from Lincoln University, presented a very nice and insightful overview on different methods of tracking gaze in non-human animals. The workshop concluded with the creative presentation of Katie Slocombe, who could not appear in person, but left us with a beautiful video message on call recording and analysis in chimps, which Anna moderated very skilfully.

After the morning coffee the first day of the conference started with the plenary lecture of Martin Schäfer in which he explained the role of

information in communication and further immersed in the role of intra- and interspecific colour perception. The student talks covered a wide variety of species and topics. From fevering locusts, over choosy tortoises and three-spined sticklebacks teaming up with conspecifics that had the same diet, to body slapping grey seals. Especially noteworthy was the talk by Victoria Hurst from Newcastle University showing how sick honeybees are more 'pessimistic'.

After this intense day of talks everybody enjoyed the exquisite wines of "Barefoot wines" whilst checking out the posters. The award for best poster went to Maria Tello-Ramos from the University of St Andrews, showing sequence learning in wild rufous hummingbirds.

Yet another highlight of this meeting was the dinner at "The Deep" in Hull. Savouring the fish and chips whilst wandering through this huge aquarium was quite the experience.



Dr Christos Ioannou of the University of Bristol is congratulated by ASAB President, Prof. Tim Birkhead, on winning the ASAB Christopher Barnard Young Investigator of the Year award 2013

The second day opened with the plenary lecture by Francesco Bonadonna from the CEFÉ-CNRS giving valuable insights on odour playing an important, though underestimated role in avian communication.

The conference closed with the charming lecture of Christos Ioannou from the University of Bristol, who received the ASAB 2013 Christopher Barnard Award for Outstanding Contributions by a New Investigator. Here he highlighted the importance of working interdisciplinary when looking into collective behaviour.

To sum up this was a beautiful and interesting meeting with a nice ambience allowing to catching up with old friends and make new ones. At this point once again a big thank you to the organizers and also all their helpers, who really made my day.

**Mark O'Hara,
University of Vienna**



BEHAVIOUR 2013



**4 - 8 AUGUST, 2013
THE SAGE GATESHEAD,
NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD, UK**



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE...

Five plenary talks showcasing different areas of behavioural research
Special talk from the winner of the ASAB Young Investigator Award 2011
33 symposia spanning all areas of behaviour and applied ethology
Additional contributed talks (200+) organised into themed sessions
Contributed posters (400+) with dedicated poster sessions
Special event: "A celebration with Aubrey Manning"
Academic publishers' workshops
Trade exhibitions of books, journals, equipment etc.

ABOUT US

Behaviour 2013 will be the 33rd International Ethological Conference, and will be held in Gateshead, England between 4th and 8th August 2013. The event is a joint meeting of the International Ethological Conference (IEC) and the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB).

To book your place visit the website www.iec2013.com and confirm your place at the largest gathering of researchers in the field of animal behaviour this year.

We look forward to welcoming you to NewcastleGateshead, UK in August!



ASAB Winter Conference

5–6 December 2013



Zoological Society of London
meeting rooms



THE EVOLUTION OF BEHAVIOURAL MECHANISMS

Plenary speakers

Melissa Bateson Newcastle University

Reuven Dukas McMaster University

Simon Laughlin University of Cambridge

Tinbergen Lecture

Marlene Zuk University of Minnesota

tinyurl.com/winterasab2013

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: 16 August

Organisers

Modelling Animal Decisions group University of Bristol

madorganiser@gmail.com



***Animal Pain course ***

November 4-8, 2013, in Vedbæk, Denmark

<http://projects.au.dk/animal-pain/>

The aim is to give PhD students an overview of the concept of animal pain from a biological perspective. PhD students and researchers within science, veterinary, agricultural and health sciences working with animals, including animal model studies, behaviour, experimentation, in zoo and animal parks, and with scientific questions related to pain biology are welcome.

<http://projects.au.dk/animal-pain/course-details/>

Resources necessary to provide this PhD course are granted from Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen.

Contact: MetteS.Herskin@agrsci.dk

***37th Annual Meeting of the Waterbird Society ***

24 – 29 September 2013 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany

The **Waterbird Society** will hold its 37th annual meeting in 2013 in Germany for the first time. The Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland", one of the oldest ornithological research institutes in the world, will be the host. The meeting venue is the Stadthalle, located in the centre of Wilhelmshaven on the German North Sea coast. The three day scientific program will consist of plenaries, symposia, contributed papers and poster sessions. Saturday 28 September will be a joint scientific day with the International Wader Study Group (IWSG) annual conference (27 to 30 September).

Please check www.waterbirds.org for updated information.

Ento '13 International Symposium and Annual National Science Meeting

4th-6th September 2013, University of St Andrews, Scotland

"Thirty years of Thornhill & Alcock: The Evolution of Insect Mating Systems"

Symposium Convenors: David Shuker (david.shuker@st-andrews.ac.uk) and Leigh Simmons

(leigh.simmons@uwa.edu.au). National Science Meeting Convenor: Graham Stone (graham.stone@ed.ac.uk)

The International Symposium will celebrate 30 years of Thornhill and Alcock's ground-breaking book *The Evolution of Insect Mating Systems*. The book has had an enormous impact on multiple generations of entomologists and behavioural ecologists, and we will celebrate that achievement and explore the progress we have made in understanding insect mating systems and reproductive behaviour since 1983. The original book covered many aspects of insect mating systems, from the evolution of sex and sexual systems, through to how ecology and sexual selection interact to shape the mating systems we see. Much has happened in the three decades since the book was published, including major advances in our understanding of the evolution of sex, sexual selection (especially mate choice and post-copulatory sexual selection), the mechanistic basis of reproductive behaviour, and of course sexual conflict. Insects have played a major role in all these developments, as the symposium and the accompanying volume will highlight.

Symposium speakers to include: Göran Arnqvist (Uppsala); Boris Baer (University of Western Australia); Roger Butlin (University of Sheffield); Trish Moore (University of Georgia); Ben Normark (UMASS); Leigh Simmons (University of Western Australia); Per Smiseth (University of Edinburgh); Rhonda Snook (University of Sheffield); Nina Wedell (University of Exeter)

For further details please: <http://www.royensoc.co.uk/content/ento-13-4-6-september-2013>