

ASAB Newsletter

Summer 2014



A note from the Newsletter Editor...

Dear ASAB member,

Welcome to the Summer 2014 edition of the ASAB Newsletter! And what a fabulous summer of science it has been! From the Easter meeting in April at the University of Sheffield – roundly enjoyed by all, and summarised beautifully by Maria Christina Carmona-Isuraz (page 2), through to the animal behaviour exhibitions at the Royal Society and the recent ECBB/ASAB meeting in Prague, it has been an incredibly busy and academically inspiring period. We now look ahead to a new term and a new influx of excited, enthusiastic young scientists. And although in these balmy days it is hard imagine frozen walks around London zoo wrapped in hats and scarves, we are of course looking ahead to this year's Winter meeting – this year organised by myself and Prof. David Sumpter (Uppsala, Sweden) on Individuals in Groups. As ever, the Winter meeting is free to attend for all ASAB members and you can follow updates on social media through @asabwinter14, as well as through the website.

You can receive all the latest ASAB news on grants, awards, conferences and interesting research by following us on Twitter (@asab_tweets). I hope you enjoy catching up on all the news from ASAB.

With all best wishes,

Lisa Collins

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View of the Conference

ASAB Easter meeting 2014, University of Sheffield, UK

The ASAB Easter Conference of 2014 was held in the prestigious University of Sheffield, home of the famous Nobel Prize winner A. Krebs (for discovering the citric acid cycle or Krebs cycle) among others. The meeting kicked off with the postgraduate workshop, which had fruitful discussions about what it is to be a scientist and why women are underrepresented in science. During lunchtime we all had the opportunity of socializing with all the attendees and Professors, I had the pleasure of meeting Prof Pat Monaghan and speaking with her about her talk on gender differences in science. Sharing views and exchanging ideas about vibrant issues with colleagues and long-career researchers is always refreshing and inspiring. The last part of the workshop involved Prof Bob Montgomery and Prof Tim Birkhead in a dynamic talk which gave examples of scientific misconduct in what seemed to be their own experience, this gave rise to a thoughtful discussion and exchange of opinions with the audience. I thought it was very useful to increase awareness of scientific misconduct in postgraduate students who could sooner or later witness or commit misconduct if unaware.

After the amazing first day of the Conference, the programme continued with one plenary speaker each morning and lots of vibrant student talks thereafter. I especially enjoyed the talk Prof Hatchwell gave about cooperation and kin selection in birds. Prof Hatchwell showed with his model, the long-tailed tits, that helpers will cooperate to feed chicks of another nest according to their relatedness and showed how his model was consistent with Hamilton's rule (relatedness and benefit should be higher than the cost of cooperating). I also enjoyed the talk given by Dr Max Wolf, winner of the Christopher Barnard Award for outstanding contributions by a new investigator, who gave a very good overview of the recent research in animal personalities and discussed his findings on how frequency-dependent and state-dependent theoretical frameworks may provide extremely useful insights for this recent field of research.

I found that all the oral presentations given throughout the conference were of an astonishing quality and covered all sorts of thrilling subjects. The speaker who won the best oral presentation prize was Eleanor Bath from University of Oxford, who gave an exciting talk where she showed how despite being highly ornamented (having longer eye-stalks) male or female stalk-eyed flies are not good intrasexual competitors and do not win more fights than those with shorter eye-stalks.

During the poster session everyone enjoyed walking around with a glass of wine and speaking to all the students presenting posters, I enjoyed having people coming to my poster and explaining my research to everyone. I find this especially good as it helps you to simplify and clarify your research, and other people's questions always arise into new ideas. I personally benefited from comments of Prof Pat Monaghan and Prof Ben Hatchwell.

Of course, the top moment of the conference was the special dinner held at the castle-like hall of the Firth Court. After some tasty food and a couple of drinks, all bold and shy engaged in a fun and energetic ceilidh dance. Overall I found that the environment of the conference was very relaxed and friendly and kept a high-level of science for all the people who enjoy the study of animal behaviour. For a foreign student like me, such an event provided an excellent opportunity not just to be exposed to an inspirational high-quality academic environment, but also to enjoy and appreciate the rich cultural background of the UK. I am greatly grateful to all the organizers and members of ASAB!

María Cristina Carmona-Isunza, University of Bath

Grant deadlines from 2014 onwards

Please remember that the grant deadlines are changing from 2014 onwards to:

1st October

1st February

1st June

Please mark these dates in your diaries.

New publications from the Royal Society

Royal Society Publishing has just published *Inclusive fitness: 50 years on*, compiled and edited by Andy Gardner and Stuart A West. This content can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/PTB1642> A print version is also available at the special price of £35.00. You can order online via the above web page (enter special code TB 1642 when prompted) or, alternatively, you can contact

debbie.vaughan@royalsociety.org<<mailto:debbie.vaughan@royalsociety.org>>

Also of interest is a *Biology Letters* Special Feature which is FREELY AVAILABLE online - 50 years on: the legacy of William Donald Hamilton, organised by Dr Joan Herbers and Dr Neil Tsutsui. The issue marks the 50th anniversary of his seminal contributions that established inclusive fitness as a central element of Darwinian evolution - and can be freely accessed at <http://bit.ly/WDHamilton50>



Individuals in Groups

ASAB Winter meeting 2014

5 - 6th December 2014, London Zoo, London, UK

Free entry to ASAB members

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Dr Dora Biro (Oxford, UK)

Prof. Niels Dingemans (Max Planck
Inst. Ornithology, Germany)

Dr Andrea Manica (Cambridge, UK)

PLUS TINBERGEN LECTURE 2014

Prof. Innes Cuthill (Bristol, UK)

Organisers:

Dr Lisa Collins (Lincoln, UK)

Prof. David Sumpter (Uppsala, Sweden)

PRESENT AN ORAL OR POSTER PRESENTATION

Abstracts should be submitted to asabwinter14@googlemail.com by
October 1st 2014.

See the website (<https://sites.google.com/a/math.uu.se/winterasab2014/>) for further details,

or contact the organisers (lcollins@lincoln.ac.uk or david.sumpter@maths.uu.se)

ASAB Easter meeting 2015

University of Durham, UK

ASAB Summer meeting 2015

TBC

ASAB Winter meeting 2015

Zoological Society of London, UK
December 3-4th 2015

Social Learning and Animal Culture
Organisers: Kevin Laland and Andy Whiten (St Andrews)

Behaviour 2015

34th International Ethological Conference
Cairns Convention Centre, Tropical North Queensland, Australia, 9th – 14th August 2015

This joint meeting of the International Ethological Conference, Australasian Evolution Society and Australia, New Zealand and Africa Region of Applied Ethology will feature a diverse selection of plenaries, symposia and conference sessions that span the entire range of behaviour research: communication, cognition, sexual selection, predator-prey, foraging, social and sensory behaviour, parental care, personality, parasitism, human behaviour, cooperation, applied ethology, conservation ethology, and many more.

We encourage participation of delegates from all geographic regions working on all behaviour disciplines and taxa. We promise an inclusive and vibrant academic and social environment during the conference to allow for those important chats between delegates. After all, Australians are welcoming, friendly and easy-going ... and we sure know how to throw a party! Come and join us at Behaviour2015.

www.behaviour2015.org