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# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

# ISBE NEWSLETTER

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**October 1996**  
**Volume 8 (2)**

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## From the president

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When I read the title of this section in previous ISBE Newsletters I always imagined it to be something like a message from Ronald Reagan to his people: nutritionless pap for the masses. But now I'm in the position to have to write something my perspective (naturally) has changed. The ISBE president's role, together with the officers, council members and editors, is to ensure the ongoing success of the society. That is, the production of our journal and the biennial meetings. My objective is to achieve this and to do so efficiently and with a minimum of bureaucracy.

It gives me enormous satisfaction to report to those members who were unable to attend the recent meeting in Canberra, that our subject and the society continue to flourish. This meeting was spectacularly successful: in its venue, organisation, the outstanding quality of both the posters and spoken presentations, and in the informal discussions that followed. Congratulations to the organisers and thanks to all the participants for making this such a great experience. As our subject matures and develops it also expands to encompass a range of other fields. My feeling about the Canberra meeting was that the emphasis on the integration of both genetics and physiological mechanisms with behavioural ecology should encourage us to address new questions in new ways.

Unfortunately, neither our out-going president, Nancy Burley, nor our in-coming president-elect, Steve Emlen, were able to attend the meeting, due to ill health - our very best wishes to both of them for a speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing them at our next meeting in California in 1998.

Until then,



Tim Birkhead

## Editorial

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You may have noticed that this issue of the newsletter looks slightly different. Ron Ydenberg has handed the Editor's torch on to me. I would hereby like to thank him sincerely for his efforts to make the transition easy by providing me with all the necessary information and patiently answering all my questions. I would also like to thank Jennifer Kickert (KLIVV) for her excellent help with layout and printing of 'my' first issue.

Since I now have the privilege to serve the Society as editor of this newsletter, I would like to make sure that it serves its purpose well. That doesn't mean that the newsletter will change dramatically. You will still find the names and addresses of the current executive and all the up-to-(I-am-not-so-sure-which-)date news about our Society and our Members. There will still be place for announcements of conferences, research grants, positions for field assistants, etc... You will find it all in this issue.

In future issues, I hope to include two new items. Book reviews are no longer published in the journal, but from now on they are welcome in the newsletter. Obviously, the content of the newsletter depends on you, members of our Society. I hereby invite you to actively participate. Starting with the next issue, I would like to include a new 'Forum' section where any aspect related to our Society or to behavioral ecology can be discussed. I would particularly welcome short essays from

members who wish to air their opinion on a relevant subject of interest to our members. In a healthy Society - which ours certainly is - there should be room for debate and discussion and that's exactly what this forum is intended for. Letters in response to earlier published essays will also be very welcome.

Although there are no plans to print the newsletter on glossy paper or to turn it into a fancy magazine with colour pictures, I would welcome drawings or black-and-white photographs as illustrations with the text or as cartoons. There are no prizes, awards or grants to be won, but your work will be gratefully acknowledged.

This issue is well worth your attention, featuring, among other news, the first address from our new President, the results of the election of our ISBE officers and an optimistic report from our journal editors. As one of the Society's highlights of this year, the Canberra meeting also gets the proper attention. I would like to thank Ian Hartley for his personal (handwritten) view from down-under. For the next issue an exclusive photographic report is planned. Send in your high-quality artwork now...

The next issue will be send out with the May issue of the journal, so copy that reaches me before early May can be included.

*Bart Kempenaers*  
*Newsletter Editor*

## The Current Executive

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Members of the Council are asked to check this listing and provide any corrections or additional information to the Newsletter editor.

## Society News

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### Conference News

#### A VIEW FROM DOWN-UNDER

Let's face it - if you want science you're reading the wrong part of this mailing, so I'm going to give an overall impression of the conference in Canberra rather than a report on the scientific content. For those of you who were unlucky to be somewhere other than Canberra during the 6th International Behavioural Ecology Congress, you missed an excellent meeting, although I must admit that Australia wasn't exactly what I had expected; it wasn't too hot, no-one had corks dangling from their hats and despite several half-hearted searches I never even found a deadly spider, let alone received a bite.

As the Australians kept telling us northern hemisphere folk, their bird-life is particularly exciting and varied and I had to agree that it lived up to all my expectations; the scrub-wrens, Brown Tree-creeper, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Brown Gerygone, to name but a few of the spectacular and wonderful birds I saw around Canberra. There were also quite a few of the more violently coloured parrots and those superlative fairy-wrens, but being European I looked the other way and tried to find a species that didn't breed cooperatively. It's hard to take those rosellas seriously when such Australian specialities tend to be behind bars in Britain! All in all though, I must say that I felt some

strong pangs of jealousy towards the Australians over their avifauna and its huge number of wacky breeding systems.

Of course, no-one can admit to their funding bodies that we need to fly round the world to see more birds/frogs/ants or whatever, so we filled the days with an impressive set of plenary and contributed talks and poster sessions to justify the expense. The presentations were generally of the high standard we have come to expect at these meetings although there were the usual one or two who seemed to have had their slides shrunk and darkened just to keep us on our toes. One presentation which deserves a special mention must be Iain Barber's talk on parasites and shoaling behaviour in fish. With one projector set on 'self destruct' mode and the spare prone to projectile vomiting of slides, he carried on with chalk, humour and a hastily shuffled slide set to deliver the last talk in one of the last sessions. It could almost have been the incarnation of Ian Jamieson's worst nightmare, except he kept his clothes on and the excellent data came through regardless.

As is usual for ISBE meetings, there was a huge demand for evening social events and at Canberra we were extremely well supplied; an exclusive bar and an incredible last night bush-dance with a free bar all night and enough dead cow, pig, sheep and hen to feed an army. It's probably one of the few times in my life when I witnessed so many apparently intelligent people jumping up and down singing 'kangaroo' at the top of their voices! (and I was one of them). The congress meal, held at the Houses of Parliament, was unfortunately beyond the reach of many peoples' pockets, including my

own, so my report on that part of the conference can only be based on second-hand news, gossip and heresay but it sounds like the kangaroo steaks went down very well, even if the incoming president's highly entertaining speech caused a few red faces and winces as it sailed characteristically close to the wind!

The biannual football world cup was even more eventful than usual. Leicester went through to the final on penalties and played arch-rivals, the Siva-Jothy Mercenaries. As a Leicester player any report is bound to be biased but I can say that the final was a keenly fought contest and although Ken Wilson lost his ball control at one point, the Mercenaries came through with a deserved 1-0 victory. We'll meet again no doubt!

So to summarize, Andrew Cockburn and his team did a splendid job organising the scientific and social program and I'm sure all of us who went would like to extend our thanks to all those involved. I'm already looking ahead to 1998 and California; maybe I'll bring my own projector though?

*Ian Hartley*  
*University of Lancaster, U.K.*

### **NSF TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR YOUNGER SCIENTISTS**

The ISBE American Committee, an ad hoc group of US officers in the ISBE including Nancy Burley, Carl Gerhardt, Walt Koenig, and Patricia Parker, are pleased to announce the recipients of travel

awards to the sixth ISBE meeting held last September in Canberra, Australia. These awards were limited to younger American scientists presenting a talk or poster at the meeting and were funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Awardees included: *David Able* (Cornell University), *Sharon Birks* (Univ. Washington), *Joseph Haydock* (Univ. California, Berkeley), *Richard Lanctot* (National Biological Service, Anchorage), *Thomas Waite* (Michigan Tech Univ.), and *Timothy Wright* (Univ. California, San Diego).

*Walt Koenig*  
*Chair, U.S. ISBE committee*

### **7th INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY CONGRESS**

The VII International Behavioral Ecology Congress will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center on the Monterey Peninsula, California, 28 July - 3 August 1998. Activities will include a reception at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, field trips, and a memorable dose of California ambience. A formal announcement will be mailed to members at a later date.

For further information or suggestions, contact the conference organizers:

Walt Koenig ([wicker@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:wicker@uclink.berkeley.edu)) or  
Janis Dickinson ([sialia@uclink2.berkeley.edu](mailto:sialia@uclink2.berkeley.edu))

## ISBE CONGRESS IN THE YEAR 2000

Offers to host the meeting in the year 2000 will be gratefully received. So far we have one offer, but it would be great to have some more. This is not something that should be undertaken lightly - the most basic requirement is the capacity to seat 500-1000 people for the plenary sessions and pleasant accommodation near to where the talks will take place.

*Tim Birkhead*  
President

PS: offers should be sent to Professor Tim Birkhead (address on page 3).

## Election Results

We are pleased to announce the results of our election of ISBE officers. On the event of our meeting in September in Canberra, the following assumed office:

President Elect: Steve Emlen

(Tim Birkhead assumed the office of President, and Nancy Burley became Past President)

Treasurer (to serve a 4-year term): Carl Gerhardt

Secretary (to serve a 2-year term): Patty Parker

new Councillors (both to serve 4-year terms):  
Anders Berglund  
Janis Dickinson

We congratulate the new officers, we are proud of the slate of candidates, and we are grateful to all who agreed to be nominated. We hope that we can count on all of those who expressed willingness to serve the ISBE in this capacity to do so again in the future.

Respectfully,

*Patty Parker*  
Secretary

## Report from the Journal Editors (1995)

Behavioral Ecology in 1995 published 58 regular articles, five forum articles and three book reviews in a total of 460 pages, essentially unchanged from 1994. The editors would like especially to thank the authors and reviewers for their continued strong contributions to the quality of the journal. The journal has been accepted by the scientific community and continues to publish important papers in our field. We encourage members to use *Behavioral Ecology* as an outlet for their most significant work.

In 1995 we received 200 new manuscripts: 107 by the European office and 93 by the North American office. The number of submitted manuscripts increased significantly in the European office and remained about the same in North America. The European editor accepted 33 manuscripts, rejected 58, and rejected, but encouraged resubmission for

16. The North American editors accepted 27 manuscripts, rejected 62, and await revisions on 4.

The backlog of papers awaiting publication still means that the lag from acceptance to publication is about one year. Several measures, including additional printed pages and moving to a six issues per year format in 1997, should reduce the lag. The editors are committed to reaching a lag of no more than 6 months, but *without* a significant increase in the already high rejection rate. We feel confident that the changes in the journal will accomplish this goal within a year or two.

While the lag in time to publication after acceptance is still unacceptably long, the editors would also like to note that some manuscripts are delayed by late return of reviews and or revision. We encourage all reviewers to consider the author(s) of submitted manuscripts and to work hard to return a review within 3-4 weeks from receipt of the manuscript. Longer delays certainly inconvenience authors and also add to the work of editors in following up on late reviews.

Authors can speed consideration of their manuscripts if they carefully edit and proofread before submission. Missing references, page numbers, figures, etc. increase the work for reviewers and editors. Manuscripts that do not conform to the guidelines in the Instructions for Authors printed in issues of *Behavioral Ecology* may be returned to the author for changes before being reviewed.

The society's contract with Oxford University Press for publication of *Behavioral Ecology* was extended annually since the initial five-year contract

period ended. We presently are involved in negotiations with OUP for a new five-year contract. The financial state of the journal is good: OUP reported a net profit for 1995 and institutional subscriptions for the early part of 1996 are ahead by 11% from late 1995. Both items are good news, but we need to continue to work to increase membership and institutional subscriptions, both of which will allow us to print more pages each year. We urge all members to encourage their institutional libraries to subscribe to *Behavioral Ecology*.

We established formal guidelines for length of service on the editorial board. Each member normally will serve 6 years and be replaced at the time of the biennial meeting. The first changes occurred in 1994 and the editors want to thank the retired members as well as the new members of the board. We are in the process of identifying new and retiring members of the board for 1996. This rotational system means that about 2/3 of the editorial board will be continuing while 1/3 are replaced each 2 years.

Respectfully,

*Marc Mangel*

*Paul Schmid-Hempel*

*Larry Wolf*

## Donated Subscription Programme

Please help colleagues in need. Every donation will help increase scientific contacts across the world. In a time when nationalism is again raising its ugly head, this is more important than ever. For details, see the newest issues of our journal *Behavioral Ecology*.

## Spousal Membership

For \$5 per year spouses of full members can become members of ISBE. Spousal members receive the annual newsletter and information concerning biannual meetings, but do not receive a subscription to the journal. Please see information in any issue of *Behavioral Ecology*.

## Conferences

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### FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DUCK SYMPOSIUM & WORKSHOP

The meeting will be held 12-16 February, 1997, at The Baton Rouge Hilton in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is a forum for biologists, managers, researchers, students and other concerned individuals to discuss current research and management issues of ducks worldwide. The program will include 5 invited plenary papers by internationally recognized speakers, 45+ shorter contributed oral presenta-

tions, educational workshops, panel discussions, and a first class poster session.

Registration materials and information for submitting oral and poster presentations can be obtained by writing:

Duck Symposium, c/o LA Coop. Fish & Wildl. Res. Unit, Rm. 310 New Forestry Bldg., LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803;

visiting the meeting web site - (<http://wwwlflpl.forestry.lsu.edu/wild/afton/ducks.htm>); or by E-mail:

Al\_Afton@bluebill.forestry.lsu.edu.

### PROCEEDINGS FROM DAMSELFISH SYMPOSIUM

We have approximately 30 copies of the Proceedings of the Reproductive Ecology of Damselfish Symposium, published in *Bulletin of Marine Science*, 1995, 57(3). The symposium was held at the 1994 American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists meeting in Los Angeles. The Proceedings includes 11 peer-reviewed papers and four abstracts on topics including hormonal control of reproductive behavior, periodicity of spawning, mating system structure, parental investment, female mate-choice, and sound production. We are offering copies for \$15.00 (US) each. This simply covers our cost and is \$20.00 less than the \$35.00 *Bulletin of Marine Science* charges for single copies. The Proceedings of the Blue Crab Recruitment Symposium are published in the same issue. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact Paul Sikkel ([psikkel@uvi.edu](mailto:psikkel@uvi.edu)) or Chris Petersen ([chrisp@ecology.coa.edu](mailto:chrisp@ecology.coa.edu)).



## Grants and Jobs

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### TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE XXV IEC

The U.S. Ethological Conference Committee has applied for a grant from NSF for partial support of travel for younger scientists to attend the XXV International Ethological Conference in Vienna (Austria) on 20-27 August 1997 (see last page of this newsletter for more information about this conference). If this grant is funded, the US Ethological Conference Committee (USECC) will provide travel funds to younger U.S. scientists - defined as those who received their Ph. D. degree between 1992 and 1996, or who will complete their Ph. D. during the 1996/97 academic year.

To apply for a travel award, please submit the following items to IEC XXV, c/o Dr. Judy Stamps, Section of Evolution and Ecology, University of California, Davis, California, 95616: (a) seven (7) copies of a 1-2 page curriculum vitae, (b) 7 copies of the abstract you will submit to the IEC program committee, and (c) 7 copies of two letters of recommendation sent separately by the recommenders. For those who have not completed their doctorate, it is desirable that the major professor include an assurance that the degree will be completed before July 1, 1997. Applications must be received by 15 December, 1996. We hope to notify all applicants of the outcome of their applications by 15 Feb, 1997.

Other questions about this competition may be addressed to Dr. Stamps at the address above (E-mail: [jastamps@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jastamps@ucdavis.edu)).

### GRADUATE AND POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Biological Research Station of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve offers grants (max. =US\$2500) to support biological research which utilizes the resources of the Preserve. Among the research areas supported are basic and applied ecology, animal behavior, systematics, evolution, and conservation. The 2000 acre Preserve is located on the Helderberg Plateau, 30 miles southwest of Albany. Habitats include northeast hardwood-hemlock forests, conifer plantations, old fields, permanent and intermittent streams, 10 and 100 acre lakes and several waterfalls. Facilities include a wet and dry lab, library, and houses/cabins for researchers. Deadline is February 1, 1997.

Application material may be obtained from Dr. Richard L. Wyman, Executive Director, EN Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station, PO Box 189, Rensselaerville, NY 12147, USA.

### VOLUNTEERS

Approximately 30 volunteer positions are open in 1997 at the American Museum of Natural History's Southwestern Research Station in Portal, Arizona. The volunteer program is run annually and offers students in biological sciences outstanding opportunities to observe and become involved with scientists doing field research. Food and lodging are provided to volunteers in exchange for twenty-four hours per week of routine chores, with the remaining time available for research activities.

The program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students; the latter may pursue their own research projects. Faculty knowing of promising students should alert them to this opportunity for professional experience toward, development of, and evaluation of their career goals.

Volunteers are needed between March 15 and November 1. Appointments are for part of this period, with a minimum appointment of six weeks. Applicants for spring positions (March-May) should submit applications by February 15, summer volunteers (June-August) by April 1, and fall volunteers (September-November) may apply any time.

For applications, write: Dr. Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, American Museum of Natural History, Portal, AZ 85632 USA; telephone 520-558-2396.

### **SOUTHWESTERN RESEARCH STATION STUDENT SUPPORT FUND**

The American Museum of Natural History awards several grants each year of approximately \$400-\$800 to graduate students or postdoctoral students pursuing research at its Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahua Mountains, Portal, Arizona. Information and application forms for this program and other Museum grant programs can be obtained by writing: Office of Grants and Fellowships, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. Application due date: Feb. 15, 1997. Address questions concerning the Station to: Dr.

Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, Portal, AZ 85632 USA; telephone 520-558-2396.

### **SEASONAL OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Assist in operations of biological research station office and nature shop: taking reservations, answering phones, greeting guests, supervising volunteers, etc. Begin March 15, 1997, through September 1997. Five-day week; salary \$210/wk, plus room (shared) and board. Applicant must be punctual, organized, enjoy people, and be interested in living in a remote setting (Chiricahua Mountains) and working with biological researchers. Biological training an asset. Call and send résumé to: Dr. Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, American Museum of Natural History, Portal, AZ 85632. Phone and fax: 520-558-2396.

## **Address change**

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Noldus Information Technology, developers of software and instrumentation for behavioural research announce the opening of a new subsidiary for their customers in the USA, Canada and Mexico. The address of the new office is:

Bart van Roekel

Noldus Information Technology Inc.

6 Pidgeon Hill Drive

Suite 180

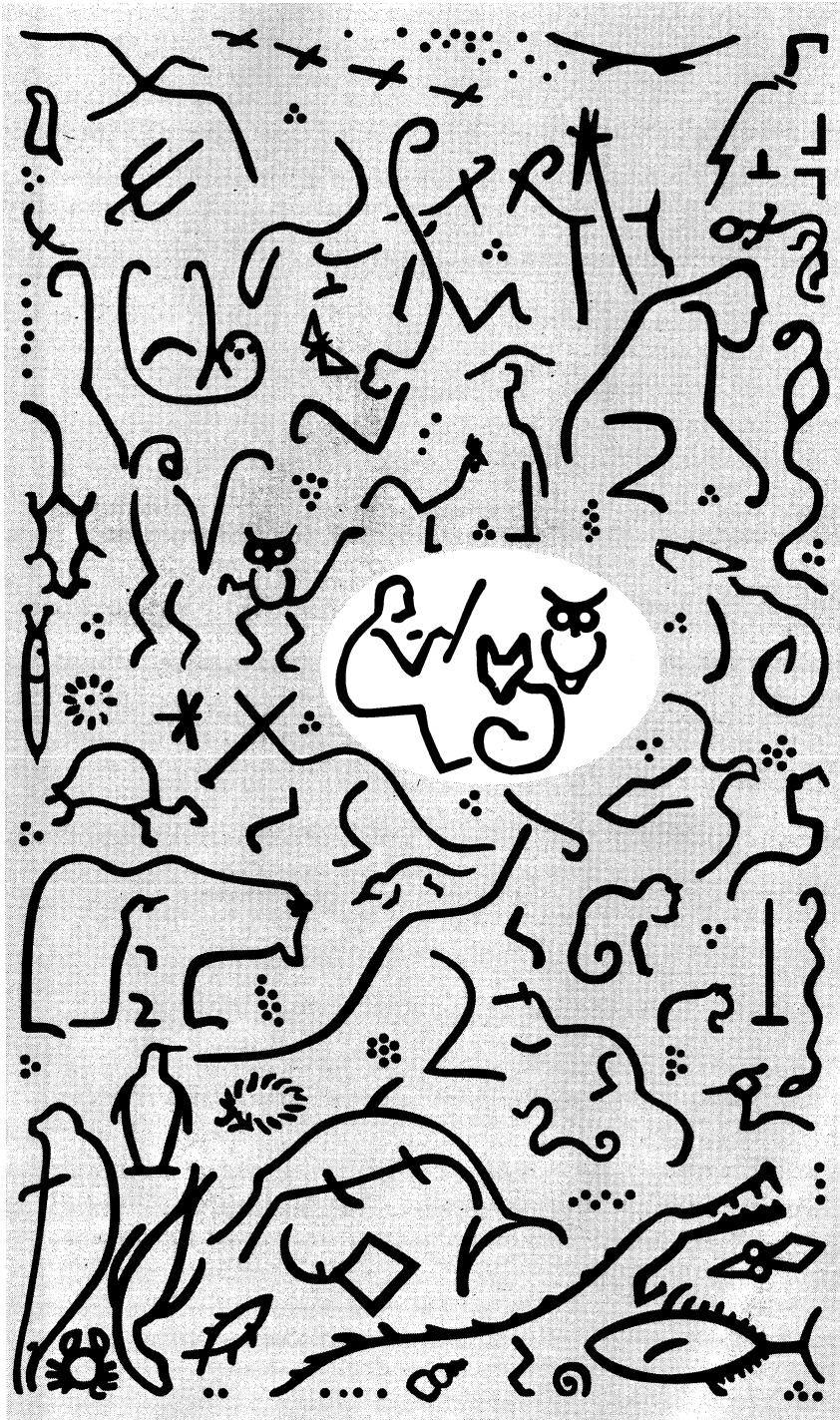
Sterling, VA 20165

U.S.A.

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# ETHOLOGY 1997

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**XXV**  
International  
Ethological  
Conference  
Vienna, Austria  
20-27 August, 1997

XXV IEC  
Wiener Medizinische  
Akademie (WMA)  
Alser Strasse 4  
A-1090 Vienna  
AUSTRIA

# THE XXVth INTERNATIONAL ETHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE AT VIENNA

Vienna invites you to the XXV International Ethological Conference that will be held from 20th to 27th August, 1997. This conference will celebrate nearly 50 years of international ethological meetings - an excellent opportunity to present a general view of the field. Therefore, the selection of major topics of this conference aims at representing the broad divergence of this vastly expanding field. The interactions between the highly successful subdisciplines of ethology will be especially emphasized, as well as their linkage with other, specialized branches of modern biology.

Plenary talks will be given on adaptive value, signal design, behavioural genetics, development, behavioural and physiological mechanisms, immunocompetence and disease resistance, neural wiring, comparative analyses, population dynamics, applied aspects, cognitive mechanisms, and evolutionary psychology. Speakers include Jan Bolhuis, Frank Bronson, Leda Cosmides, John Endler, Cecilia Heyes, Emilia Martins, Manfred Milinski, Robert Page, Wayne Potts, Edmund Rolls, Bill Sutherland and John Webster. There will be Symposia on sensory ecology (Barth), conflict resolution (Aureli), vocal displays in birds (Groothuis/ten Cate), conflict of interest between the sexes (Halliday/Magurran), neuromodulators and behaviour (Huber), physiology of perception studied at the ultimate level (Klump), physiological evidence for ethological concepts (Leonard), Darwinian aesthetics (Møller/Grammer), long-range communication (Naguib/McGregor), sperm competition (Peschke), broadening the view of lekking (Wikelski/Taborsky) and, motivation: from brain to behaviour (Zupanc/Lamprecht). Roundtable Discussions will complement the program (e.g. on mating systems and parental care, hermaphrodite

courtship, early hormonal influences on behavioural differentiation, teaching ethology, parasite mediated sexual selection, etc.). A special event will be a podium discussion with invited participants on "The proximate/ultimate crux: split or synthesis?", chaired and introduced by John Krebs.

Three possibilities are offered for contributing papers; spoken papers, poster papers and poster talks. The latter includes a brief introduction of posters in a plenary session, at prime time. In the evenings, activities will include film sessions, a special guest lecture, receptions at the conference venue and town hall, and a conference dinner party (admission free for all registered participants). The **deadline** for especially reduced registration fees, grant applications and for the submission of abstracts will be **28th February, 1997**.

Vienna, the city of music and charm, and cultural metropolis in central Europe will supplement the scientific program with its unique atmosphere and infinite distractions - concerts, theatricals, musicals, opera, museums, attractive architecture, gastronomic temptations, and fine wines. Tours and excursions are offered to various targets in the city and to Vienna's magnificent surroundings, including evergreen forests, prolific vineyards, the eastern alps, the new Danubian National Park with its riparian floodplains, and the ornithologists' paradise Lake Neusiedl.

The **final announcement** containing the call for papers, registration forms and booking details for accommodation and excursions may be obtained by filling and sending the information slip provided below. Information from WMA, "XXVth IEC", Alser Strasse 4, A-1090 Vienna, AUSTRIA. E-mail: medacad@via.at; Tel.: +43-1-405-1383; Fax: +43-1-405-1383-23; Homepage: <http://evolution.humb.univie.ac.at/events/iec.html>

Michael Taborsky (chairman)



I intend to participate and wish to receive further information

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



**XXV**  
**International**  
**Ethological**  
**Conference**  
**Vienna, Austria**