

Publications Advisory Board¹

Committee Members: K. B. Aubry, H. Beck, B. H. Blake, J. Cigard (Managing Editor), M. J. Hamilton (*Mammalian Species* Editor), J. M. Harris, L. D. Hayes, S. A. Jansa, D. A. Kelt (Publications Director), C. W. Kilpatrick, B. K. Lim, C. R. Maher, M. Matocq, J. F. Merritt (*Journal* Editor), P. L. Meserve, R. W. Norris, R. A. Ojeda, J. Ortega, P. R. Owen, C. R. Pavey, R. A. Powell, I. S. Prange, E. A. Rickart, V. Sánchez-Cordero, L. A. Shipley, W. P. Smith, M. A. Steele, R. D. Stevens, B. J. Swanson, J. A. Thomas, M. V. Vieira, N. Woodman, D. A. Zegers.

¹ The name of this committee was changed at the 2013 Annual Meeting from the Publications Committee to the Publications Advisory Board.

Mission:

The Publications Advisory Board oversees the Society's publications, including the *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species*. The Board sets editorial policy for the Society and nominates editors for approval by the Board of Directors. The Board typically is composed of current editors, who are involved in reviewing and accepting papers and the technical production of the publications.

Information Items:

(1) Since 2010, the ASM has contracted with Allen Press Publishing Services and Allen Press Association Management to publish the *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species* and to manage ASM memberships, respectively. Both of these contracts will end in December 2014. In 2012, President Heske established an ad hoc committee to solicit proposals for new publishing and membership management contracts. The ad hoc committee contracted with Kaufman, Wills, Fusting & Company (KFW – Baltimore, MD) to assist us in soliciting proposals and interfacing with potential publishers and association managers. It is worth emphasizing that the assistance of KWF was instrumental in the success of this RFP.

Publishing Contract. At the 2013 ASM meeting in Philadelphia the Board of Directors received proposals from three groups wishing to publish the *Journal* and *Mammalian Species* as of 1 January 2015. The Board voted to accept a bid from Oxford University Press for a 5-year contract (2015-2019), and through the fall and winter of 2013/14 the ad hoc committee worked with KWF to finalize this contract. We reached a mutually agreeable contract in March 2014, and this will take effect as of 1 January 2015.

The Publications Advisory Board extends its sincerest thanks to Allen Press for many years of productive, constructive, and collegial collaboration. Personal relationships have developed with many Allen Press employees, and we thank Karen Ridgway, Melanie Dolechek, Rita Janssen, Jane Cigard, Emily Mueller, Whitney Lohrenz, Kristi Bailey, Elizabeth Garrett, Cristi Classi, and all other AP staff who have helped us to convey our passion for the Science of Mammalogy.

Membership Management Contract. The Board of Directors entertained two proposals for membership management at the 2013 meeting in Philadelphia. Provisionally the Board agreed to defer a decision on this contract while the ASM Secretary-Treasurer worked with representatives

at Allen Press to resolve and streamline issues of concern. As of late April 2014, Society Officers continue to discuss the best option for membership management, and further discussions are likely to be held at the 2014 meeting in Oklahoma.

(2) In 2010 the Society established a Fast Track option for rapid online publication of new taxa. In 2013 we received our first submission for Fast Track publication. This was published online in December 2013.

(3) The most visible products of the ASM are the *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species*. The success of these is a direct reflection of the efforts of the editors for both journals, who comprise the bulk of the Publications Advisory Board. We excel through the dedication and efforts of these members, and they continue to display passion for mammalogy and for helping authors present their work as efficiently and effectively as possible. I encourage all Society members to thank members of this board in person.

This year, we are sad to accept the resignation of 6 AEs from the *Journal of Mammalogy*. These include Burton Lim (7 years), Victor Sánchez-Cordero (5 years), Lisa Shipley (3 years), Winston Smith (3 years), Michel Steele (4 years), and Neal Woodman (3 years). These retirements represent a combined 25 years of editing service to the *Journal* and the Society. Additionally, *Mammalian Species* has operated well with 5 AEs, but this year we are compelled to accept the resignation of Eric Rickart (8 years).

(4) Under President Heske's leadership the Society has implemented a practice of electronic voting to allow for more rapid decision-making on key societal issues, while also helping to streamline the annual Board of Director's meeting. Online voting in March 2014 approved the following incoming class of 7 Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*: Leslie Carraway (Oregon State University), Jake Esselstyn (Louisiana State University), Tereza Jezkova (University of Nevada-Reno), Kevin Monteith (University of Wyoming), Duke Rogers (Brigham Young University), John Scheibe (Southeast Missouri State University), and Pat Zollner (Purdue University). Terms for these AEs will commence at the end of the Annual Meeting.

Simultaneous with the online vote for JM editors, the Board approved Robert Rose (Old Dominion University) as an incoming Associate Editor for *Mammalian Species*. Dr. Rose's tenure will commence at the end of the Annual Meeting.

(5) In 2013 we did not publish a compilation of *Mammalian Species* accounts as we had only 7 accounts ready for publication. This year we published 60 copies of Vol. 44 and 45 (accounts 890-904) in a combined package; 28 of these were sent to archival libraries, and 32 are available for purchase. A flyer to announce the availability of these accounts was included in the April issue of the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

(6) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2013 and 23 March 2014. Readers are invited to note the monotonic decrease in handling times over the past 2 years:

Volume 94, No. 3; 19 Feature articles²

Volume 94, No. 4; 20 Feature articles, 2 book reviews

Volume 94, No. 5; 20 Feature articles, 1 book review

Volume 94, No. 6; 26 Feature articles, 1 book review

Volume 95, No. 1; 22 Feature articles, 3 book reviews

Volume 95, No. 2; 20 Feature articles, 4 book reviews

²Attentive readers may note that the 2013 Publications Committee report listed 22 feature articles and 1 book review for Vol. 94, No. 3. Subsequently, 3 articles and the book review were deferred to Vol. 94, No. 4.

Manuscripts submitted, accepted, and rejected, including comparable data for 2 preceding years:

	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of manuscripts submitted	415	394	483	380
Number of manuscripts accepted	129	117	154	83
Number of manuscripts rejected	177	172	218	210
Rejection rate	58%	59%	58%	72%
Total Final Decisions (accepted + rejected)	306	289	372	n.a.

Handling times: Data for Vol. 93(5-6) and 94(1-3) were reported in 2013; these are provided here to highlight increasing efficiency of manuscript processing.

Volume 93, Nos. 5-6

Submission to acceptance: 220 days (7.2 months)

Acceptance to publication: 191 days (6.2 months)

Total time: 412 days (13.5 months)

Volume 94, Nos. 1-3

Submission to acceptance: 206 days (6.7 months)

Acceptance to publication: 188 days (6.1 months)

Total time: 389 days (12.7 months)

Volume 94, Nos. 3-6

Submission to acceptance: 178 days (5.8 months)

Acceptance to publication: 175 days (5.7 months)

Total time: 354 days (11.6 months)

Volume 95, Nos. 1-2

Submission to acceptance: 160 days (5.2 months)

Acceptance to publication: 155 days (5.0 months)

Total time: 315 days (10.3 months)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 93, Nos. 5-6: 50.0% U.S., 10.0% Canada, 16.6% Latin America, 23.3% other countries ($n = 30$)

Vol. 94, Nos. 1-3: 48.5% U.S., 5.9% Canada, 17.6% Latin America, 27.9% other countries
(*n* = 68)

Vol. 94, Nos. 3-6: 42.7% U.S., 14.7% Canada, 20.0% Latin America, 22.7% other countries
(*n* = 75)

Vol. 95, Nos. 1-3: 51.4% U.S., 8.1% Canada, 18.9% Latin America, 21.6% other countries
(*n* = 37)

(9) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, including comparable data for 2 preceding years:

	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Total number of accounts published	8	7	18	27
Accounts in proof, scheduled for release in May (pre-2014) or June/July (2013-14) ^a .	6	3	1	4
Accounts with Editor	21 ^b	15	17	15
Total number of accounts with Associate Editors	56 ^c	55	30	35
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors	23 ^d	24 ^e	12	25
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors	18	23	26	42
Total number of accounts in preparation	266 ^f	314 ^g	371 ^h	394 ⁱ

^a In previous years we released MS accounts in 2-month batches; we now release them as they are ready, and the 6 accounts in proof are scheduled for release in June or July.

^b Four inactive.

^c 21 inactive.

^d 21 have been assigned to AEs; 1 is waiting for assistance from the Buddy System, and 1 will be assigned once some figures have been revised.

^e 18 were assigned, and 6 were pending quality control issues (have since been assigned).

^f 189 overdue

^g 203 overdue

^h 170 overdue

ⁱ 220 overdue

Action Items:

(1) Request \$1250 (decrease of \$250) to cover the cost of printing and distributing archive copies of *Mammalian Species* to our 28 library partners.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Kelt, Chair
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