

Publications Committee

Committee Members: H. Beck, B. H. Blake, R. M. Brigham, E. Dumont, W. L. Gannon, M. S. Hafner, F. Geiser, M. J. Hamilton, E. J. Heske, D. S. Jacobs, J. L. Koprowski, C. Krajewski, E. A. Lacey, D. M. Leslie, Jr. (Chair), B. K. Lim, M. B. Main, R. A. Medellín, J. F. Merritt, E. A. Mueller, P. R. Owen, W. F. Perrin, R. A. Powell, J. Rachlow, D. L. Reed, E. A. Rickart, P. T. Stapp, R. A. Sweitzer, C. C. Voigt, J. M. Waterman, J. A. Yunger, D. Zegers.

Mission:

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

Information Items:

(1) The *Journal of Mammalogy* was voted 1 of the 100 most influential journals in biology and medicine over the past century by the 686 international members of the BioMedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Library Association. The top 100 included 33–34 journals in 3 major categories: natural history, clinical medicine and allied health sciences, and molecular and cellular biology. So, the *Journal* really can be considered among the most influential 33 natural-history journals of the past century! Many colleagues over many years have made such recognition possible. President McLaren is scheduled to attend the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on 16 June 2009.

(2) Highlights of activities of the Publication Committee included: (a) assisting President McLaren and other Officers with review of the publication and association-management contract proposals from Allen Press; (b) in support of 2009 budget constraints, foregoing \$21,350 in editorial honoraria payments in the spirit of ameliorating proposed cuts to Grants-in-Aid and the ASM Fellowship; (c) developing a strategy with Allen Press, selected Board members, and the Committee to improve the impact of *Mammalian Species*, including adding an annual volume number and issuing each volume 6 times/year (in months alternating with publication of the *Journal of Mammalogy*) while maintaining individual numbering of each monograph (a name change to “*Mammalian Species Monographs*” or “*Mammalian Species Reviews*” generally was not favored by the Committee; pagination of individual papers is still under review); (d) arranging for printing and distribution of the 2008 *Mammalian Species* Archive book; and (e) continuing to work with the Informatics Committee to feature open-access articles from the *Journal of Mammalogy* and now *Mammalian Species* at ASM website (open-access articles have increased from 3 in 2005 to 10 in 2007 and 16 in 2008; numbers are down in 2009 to date, likely because of the global economic slump).

(3) Journal Editor Ed Heske will step down after 3 years of service. It goes without saying that his contribution to ASM has been stellar, and we are grateful for his dedication. The Publication Committee submitted its nomination of Ronald Barry (Bates College) to the Board in April 2009. Barry's nomination was approved by the Board; he will assume the responsibilities of Journal Editor in July 2009 and be responsible for the 1st issue in 2010.

(4) The Publication Committee will lose 6 Associate Editors of the *Journal of Mammalogy* in June: Mark Hafner (3 years service), Marty Main (3 years), Rodrigo Medellín (4 years), Eileen Lacey (3 years), Rick Sweitzer (3 years), and John Yunger (4 years). We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and editorial contributions of these colleagues.

(5) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009:

Volume 89 Nos. 1-6; 156 manuscripts published

Volume 90 Nos. 1-5; 125 manuscripts scheduled to be published as of 28 April 2009; 27 manuscripts published in No. 1; 98 manuscripts scheduled for publication in Nos. 2-5 as of 28 April 2009

Number of manuscripts submitted: 368 (compared to 394 last year)

Number of manuscripts accepted: 112 (compared to 97 last year)

Number of manuscripts rejected: 170 (compared to 199 last year)

Rejection rate: 60% (compared to 67% last year)

Handling times:

Volume 89, Nos. 1-6

Submission to acceptance: 179 days (5.8 months)

Acceptance to publication: 227 days (7.3 months)

Total time: 406 days (13.1 months)

Volume 90, Nos. 1-5

Submission to acceptance: 182 days (5.9 months)

Acceptance to publication: 231 days (7.4 months)

Total time: 413 days (13.3 months)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 88, Nos. 1-6: 51% U.S., 8% Canada, 17% Latin America, 24% other countries
($n = 156$)

Vol. 90, Nos. 1-5: 65% U.S., 9% Canada, 10% Latin America, 17% other countries
($n = 125$)

(6) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009:

Total number of accounts published = 18
Accounts in proof, scheduled for release in May = 7
Accounts with Editor = 20
Total number of accounts with Associate Editors = 59
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to an Associate Editors = 32
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors = 24
Total number of accounts in preparation = 297 (165 overdue)

(7) Publication statistics for Special Publications:

No formal proposals were received; no volumes published

Action Items:

(1) New Editors: The Committee seeks Board approval of 6 new Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*: Victor Sánchez-Cordero (UNAM–Mexico City), Jonathan A. Jenks (South Dakota State University), Madan K. Oli (University of Florida), Richard D. Stevens (Louisiana State University), Dirk H. Van Vuren (University of California–Davis), and Samantha M. Wisely (Kansas State University).

(2) Approve proposal to include Special Publications 1–11 in the open-access online Biodiversity Heritage Library (www.biodiversitylibrary.org), at no cost to ASM.

(3) Request that \$1000 be budgeted to cover the cost of printing and distributing archive copies of *Mammalian Species* to our library partners.

Respectfully submitted,
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