

Publications Committee

Committee Members: R. E. Barry (Journal Editor), H. Beck, B. H. Blake, E. R. Dumont, W. L. Gannon, M. J. Hamilton (MS Editor), J. M. Harris, D. S. Jacobs, J. A. Jenks, M. Kalcounis-Rueppell, D. M. Leslie, Jr. (Chair), B. K. Lim, C. Maher, E. A. Mueller, M. K. Oli, P. R. Owen, W. F. Perrin, R. A. Powell, J. L. Rachlow, D. L. Reed, E. A. Rickart, V. Sánchez-Cordero, P. T. Stapp, M. A. Steele, R. D. Stevens, B. J. Swanson, D. H. Van Vuren, C. C. Voigt, S. Wisely, D. A. 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) Highlights of the activities of the Publication Committee include (a) the development and establishment of a Fast Track option for naming new species, genera, etc. in online supplemental papers to the *Journal of Mammalogy*, through the hard work of Barbara Blake, Ed Heske, and Karen Ridgway, (b) arranging for the printing and distribution of the 2010 *Mammalian Species* Archive book, (c) permitting the first updates of old *Mammalian Species* accounts, the least shrew (no. 43) and the ringtail (no. 327) and pondering permitting updates of accounts on the snow leopard (no. 20) and bharal (no. 278), and (d) recruiting, arguably, the largest class of Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*. At 2010 Annual Meeting, the Publication Committee discussed, at length, the matter of page charges and failed to reach a consensus; however, most felt that some mandatory page charges were appropriate for all authors.

(2) Critically, Journal Editor Ron Barry asked to step down after 2 years of service, which added an unexpected challenge to editorial recruitment this year. The Publications Committee also lost one AE shortly after last year's meeting (Fritz Geiser, 3.2 years) and will be losing 6 more in June—their combined service to ASM equals just over 22 years! Those AEs stepping down after our meeting this year are Betsy Dumont (3 years), David Jacobs (4 years), Jon Jenks (2 years), Bill Perrin (4 years), Janet Rachlow (3 years), and David Reed (3 years). Finally, we operated 1 AE short of the Board-approved level of 22 AEs. Therefore, we sought replacements for the Journal Editor and 8 AEs for the *Journal*.

(3) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011:

Volume 91 Nos. 1–6; 144 manuscripts published; 1 Special Feature with 4 papers.

Volume 92 Nos. 1–5; 94 manuscripts scheduled to be published as of 10 April 2010; 25 manuscripts including 1 Special Feature with 8 papers published in No. 1; 69 manuscripts including 1 Special Feature with 8 papers scheduled for publication in Nos. 2–5 as of 10 April 2009.

Number of manuscripts submitted: 380 (compared to 356 last year).
Number of manuscripts accepted: 83 (compared to 86 last year).
Number of manuscripts rejected: 210 (compared to 181 last year).

Rejection rate: 72% (compared to 68% last year).

Handling times:

Volume 91, Nos. 1–6

Submission to acceptance: 184 days (6.0 months).

Acceptance to publication: 208 days (6.8 months).

Total time: 392 days (12.8 months).

Volume 92, Nos. 1–5

Submission to acceptance: 220 days (7.2 months).

Acceptance to publication: 184 days (6.0 months).

Total time: 404 days (13.2 months).

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 91, Nos. 1–6: 51% U.S., 6% Canada, 15% Latin America, 27% other countries ($n = 144$).

Vol. 92, Nos. 1–5: 51% U.S., 7% Canada, 18% Latin America, 23% other countries ($n = 94$).

(4) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010:

Total number of accounts published = 27 (23 last year).

Accounts in proof, scheduled for release in May = 4.

Accounts with Editor = 15.

Total number of accounts with Associate Editors = 35.

Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors = 25.

Number of new species accounts assigned to authors = 42.

Total number of accounts in preparation = 394 (220 overdue).

Action Items:

(1) New Editors: The Committee seeks Board approval of Joseph Merritt as Editor and Brian Arbogast (University of North Carolina–Wilmington), Peter Evans (Sea Watch Institute and University of Wales, Bangor), Loren Hayes (University of Louisiana at Monroe), Ricardo Ojeda (Centro Científico Tecnológico Mendoza, Argentina), Suzanne Prange (Ohio Division of Natural Resources), Lisa Shipley (Washington State University), Winston Smith (U.S. Forest Service, retired), and Neal Woodman (U.S. Geological Survey at the Smithsonian) as Associate Editors of the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

(2) Request an increase in Journal Editor's budget from \$30,000 to \$55,000 this year and, in principle, to \$70,000 next year.

(3) Re-instate the stipend of \$2,000 (from \$1,000) for the Editor for *Mammalian Species*.

(4) Request \$1,400 (increase of \$200) to cover the cost of printing and distributing archive copies of *Mammalian Species* to our 28 library partners.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Leslie, Jr., Chair

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