

Publications Committee

Committee Members: B. H. Blake, R. M. Brigham, G. Ceballos, C. L. Frank, W. L. Gannon, R. D. Gettinger, V. Hayssen, K. M. Helgen, E. J. Heske, D. A. Kelt, C. Krajewski, E. A. Kemmeter, D. M. Leslie, Jr. (Chair), J. E. Maldonado, B. McGuire, R. A. Medellín, J. F. Merritt, P. R. Owen, R. A. Powell, E. A. Rickart, N. G. Solomon, F. W. Weckerly, J. A. Yunger

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 activities of the Publication Committee include: (a) assisting Allen Press with the initiation of the new membership dues structure and publication delivery; (b) responding to informational requests from Alliance Communications Group, ASM's Allen Press publishing partner, to assure full electronic access to *Mammalian Species* and the *Journal of Mammalogy* to all societal members; (c) assisting with the production of marketing materials for institutional subscribers; and (d) meeting with the ASM officers and Allen Press in March 2006 to provide input on future publication and editorial challenges and strategies.

(2) Editor Blake and her team of Associate Editors, assisted by AllenTrack, continued to reduce the average time from submission to publication from **13.1** months last year to **11.8** months this year!

(3) The Publication Committee will experience considerable turnover in June 2006 with 7 editorial positions being vacated. For the *Journal of Mammalogy*, Barbara Blake, Editor for the past **5** years, Associate Editors Eric Rickart (4 years), Nancy Solomon (3.5 years), and Butch Weckerly (3 years), and Special Features Editor Ed Heske (2 years) are stepping down. For *Mammalian Species*, Ginny Hayssen, Editor for the past **6** years, and Associate Editor Betty McGuire are stepping down. Midyear appointments of Jesús Maldonado and Roger Powell, Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, were made in August 2005 and January 2006, respectively. We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and editorial contributions of our outgoing and current editors.

(4) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006:

Volume 86 Nos. 1–6; published

Volume 87 Nos. 1–4; published or scheduled to be published

Volume 87 No. 5; scheduled to be published; full
Volume 87 No. 6; 0 manuscripts scheduled (3 scheduled as of 10 April)

Volume 86, 140 manuscripts published
Volume 87, 123 manuscripts scheduled (126 scheduled as of 10 April)

Number of manuscripts submitted: 360 (compared to 303 last year)
Number of manuscripts accepted: 110 (compared to 124 last year)
Number of manuscripts rejected: 140 (compared to 184 last year)

Rejection rate: 56% (compared to 61% last year)

Handling times: Volume 87, Nos. 1–5

Submission to acceptance:	4.4 months (last year, 4.8 months)
Acceptance to publication:	7.4 months (last year, 8.3 months)
Total time:	11.8 months (last year, 13.1 months)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 86: 57% U.S., 8% Canada, 10% Latin America, 25% other countries ($n = 140$)

Vol. 87: 54% U.S., 7% Canada, 13% Latin America, 27% other countries ($n = 123$)

(5) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006:

Total number of accounts published and to be published: 24

Autumn 2005: Nos. 777–787

Spring 2006: Nos. 788–800, plus Index to accounts 1–800

Time from submission to publication: 2.6 years (range, 1.12–6.12 years)

Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to an Associate Editor: 23

Total number of accounts with Associate Editors: 47

Total number of accounts with Editor: 1

Number of new species accounts assigned to authors: 42

Total number of accounts in preparation: 286 (181 overdue)

Number of accounts available on line as PDF files: 739

(6) Publication statistics for Special Publications:

We considered a special publication by Charles Long, titled *Mammals of Wisconsin*, and concluded that we cannot recommend publication of this title to the ASM Board at this time.

Action Items:

(1) New Editors: The Committee seeks Board approval of Ed Heske as Editor, Mark Hafner, Eileen Lacey, and Rick Sweitzer as Associate Editors, and Barbara Blake as

Special Features Editor for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, and Meredith Hamilton as Editor and Eric Rickart as Associate Editor for *Mammalian Species*.

(2) The Committee proposes to increase the number of Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy* from 12 to 16.

(3) The Committee seeks approval of a proposal to increase the operational budget for the Editor of the *Journal of Mammalogy* from \$8,000/year to \$30,000/year, of which \$10,000 can be used as an honorarium or university buy-out for services rendered to ASM.

(4) The Committee seeks Board input on Past President's Hugh Genoways idea to establish a protocol and budget for soliciting "commissioned" articles from experts on high-profile topics of interest to a broad variety of scientific disciplines, using mammals as a the model or example.

Respectfully submitted,
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