

Publications Advisory Board

Committee Members: D. A. Kelt (Director of Publications); *Journal of Mammalogy*; Editor in Chief – J. F. Merritt; Associate Editors – K. B. Aubry, H. Beck, L. Carraway, J. Esselstyn, E. Gese, L. Hayes, S. Jansa, T. Jezkova, C. Maher, M. Matocq, K. Monteith, R. Moratelli, R. Ojeda, C. R. Pavey, R. A. Powell, J. Ortega Reyes, D. Rogers, J. Scheibe, R. D. Stevens, B. J. Swanson, J. Thomas, M. V. Vieira, P. Zollner; Special Issues Editor – B. H. Blake; Book Review Editor – P. L. Meserve; *Mammalian Species*, Editor in Chief – M. J. Hamilton; Associate Editors – J. M. Harris, C. W. Kilpatrick, P. R. Owen, B. Rose, D. A. Zegers; Oxford University Press Staff – J. Martin (Production, outgoing), L. Godwin (Marketing), F. Williams (Lead).

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. Key publishing partners are invited to serve as *ex officio* but non-voting members.

Information Items:

(1) ASM Publications. The ASM is now in its second year of a 5-year publishing contract with Oxford University Press (OUP), after a 59-year association with Allen Press (1956 through 2015). This transition involved not only a complete change in our staffing partners but also a change in our editorial platform, from AllenTrack to ScholarOne. In my last report I noted that “we expect more wrinkles” in the transition, including a learning curve associated with the move to ScholarOne and resolving sundry copyediting and production issues; at this point, however (April 2016), virtually all of these issues appear to be fully resolved. We have fully revised our Instructions to Authors, and the *Journal of Mammalogy* is one of the first scientific journals to provide clear guidance and a streamlined system for publishing manuscripts dealing with nomenclatural issues (see below).

(2) In my 2015 report I noted that Advance Access, the online ahead of print system developed by OUP, was not immutable and consequently did not meet the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). With extensive input from the ASM Nomenclature Committee, and with clarification and confirmation from leadership in the ICZN, the Publications Advisory Board has revised Advance Access to be immutable, and we have established procedures to rapidly and appropriately publish nomenclatural papers online well ahead of print. Members should note that one correlate of this is that all Advance Access papers are now immutable; other than pagination and journal volume/issue information (“metadata” in the eyes of the ICZN), nothing in a manuscript will be altered once this has been published online as Advance Access. This places additional importance on thorough and comprehensive review of page proofs. Any errors encountered after posting as Advance Access will require an Erratum. I particularly wish to thank Ryan Norris, Ricardo Moratelli, and Al Gardner for their input through the development of this system. It is notable that no other traditional journal has developed comprehensive procedures to publish nomenclatural articles online in accordance with

ICZN rules. Because the ICZN requires that all nomenclatural papers be registered in ZooBank (the official registry of zoological nomenclature; <http://zoobank.org/>), we have now assigned 1 Associate Editor (currently Ricardo Moratelli) the role of registering all nomenclatural papers in ZooBank. Upon submission, all authors will be asked to check a box if their contribution includes any nomenclatural issues, and the *Journal* Editor in Chief and Associate Editors will also keep their eyes open for papers that include nomenclatural acts but neglect to indicate this during submission. Additionally, AA Moratelli is registering all *Mammalian Species* accounts in ZooBank to provide coverage in the event that a new nomenclatural combination is inadvertently introduced in an account (e.g., during the preparation of the synonymy).

(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 I have accepted the resignation of the Editor in Chief for the *Journal*, Joe Merritt, recipient of the 2015 Hartley H. T. Jackson Award for service to the ASM. Joe has been a stalwart leader of our editorial team, and deserves the appreciation and personal thanks of mammalogists everywhere. Joe is not leaving us, however; rather, he is assuming the role of Associate Editor for Special Features, a role held for the past decade by another pillar of ASM editing, Barbara Blake. Special Features bring together series of papers on a common theme, and Barbara has ably worked with authors over the years to ensure that these provide “must read” distillations and syntheses that have improved the attractiveness of the *Journal*. Joe has a big role to fill, and I look forward to working with him in his new role. I am tremendously sorry to lose Barbara, however, and I encourage all members to take a moment to thank her for her efforts on our behalf.

I have also accepted the resignation of 6 Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, and 1 Associate Editor for *Mammalian Species*. For the *Journal*, these include Keith Aubry (3 years), Sharon Jansa (4 years), Christine Maher (6 years), Marjorie Matocq (3 years), Richard Stevens (7 years), and Jeanette Thomas (4 years). For *Mammalian Species*, Dave Zegers is stepping down after an 8-year run. Please take a moment during the Annual Meeting to thank these colleagues for their service to the ASM and to mammalogy in general. Editing is a rewarding job but not without its challenges; as all authors know, however, editors are seminal to the success of each and every one of us!

(4) In November 2015, *Journal* Editor in Chief Joe Merritt and I initiated a change to his editorial assistance. Whereas the Society has allocated \$30,000 to cover such assistance as helping to check in manuscripts, facilitating communication with Associate Editors, checking accepted manuscripts for scientific prose and nomenclature, etc., we contracted with a professional managing editor, Ms. Corrie Williams-Klamborowski, through OUP. The estimated annual cost of this assistance is substantially lower than our earlier allocation (as reflected in my FY 2017 budget request), and has resulted in improved efficiency and speed in manuscript processing. Ms. Williams-Klamborowski will be attending part of the ASM Annual Meeting

where she will provide ScholarOne training for members of the Publications Advisory Board; please thank her for her efforts on behalf of the *Journal*.

(5) President Lacey has continued 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 April 2016 approved the following incoming class of 5 Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*: Perry Barboza (Texas A&M), Jake Goheen (Univ. Wyoming), Jessica Light (Texas A&M), Antoinette (Toni) Piaggio (USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center), and Bill Zielinski (US Forest Service, Redwood Sciences Lab). Terms for these AEs will commence at the end of the Annual Meeting. I continue to seek a replacement for the final AE for the *Journal*, and a search for a new *Mammalian Species* Associate Editor is ongoing.

(6) Workload among *Journal* Associate Editors is uneven, reflecting the thematic and taxonomic distribution of submitted manuscripts. I am currently in the process of distilling the distribution of submissions relative to AE expertise, but provisionally I am bringing to the Board a request to authorize recruitment of up to 7 more AEs, bringing the total number of regular AEs (e.g., excluding AE for Book Reviews and AE for Special Features) to 30. The additional cost to ASM, should I recruit all 7, would be \$3,500 in editorial honoraria, which is more than compensated by the \$15,000 savings in editorial assistance that I have achieved in the recent year.

(7) I bring to the Board a proposal for publishing 30 copies of *Mammalian Species*, vol. 47, accounts 918 through 929; 28 of these will be sent to archival libraries, while 2 will be available for purchase.

(8) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2015 and 23 March 2016.

Composition of recent issues of the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

	Feature Articles	Special Feature Articles	Book Reviews
96.3	14	0	0
96.4	14	6	2
96.5	21	0	2
96.6	24	0	1
97.1	29	0	1
97.2	30	0	1

Manuscripts (Feature Articles) submitted, accepted, and rejected, including comparable data for 3 preceding years:

	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
Number of manuscripts submitted	351	345	415	394
Number of manuscripts accepted (a)	89	138	129	117
Number of manuscripts rejected (r)	164	148	177	172
Rejection rate (a/a+r)	65%	52%	58%	60%
Total Final Decisions (a + r)	253	286	306	289

Handling times:

	Submission to Acceptance	Acceptance to Print (AA/ Journal)*	Total Time (AA/Journal)*
96.3	182 days (6.5 mo)	167 days (4.2/5.9 mo)	298/349 days (10.6/12.4 mo)
96.4	192 days (6.8 mo)	106 days (1.7/3.8 mo)	240/298 days (8.6/10.6 mo)
96.5	236 days (8.4 mo)	128 days (1.8/4.6 mo)	285/364 days (10.2/13.0 mo)
96.6	242 days (8.6 mo)	33/123 days (1.2/4.4 mo)	274/364 days (9.8/13.0 mo)
97.1	207 days (7.4 mo)	30/116 days (1.1/4.2 mo)	237/324 days (8.5/11.6 mo)
97.2	193 days (6.9 mo)	43/124 days (1.6/4.4 mo)	236/317 days (8.4/11.3 mo)

* - time to online posting as Advance Access/full online journal.

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts (Vol. 93(3) through 97(2); n = 131 manuscripts); of note, JM authors come from 32 countries on all continents):

	First Author	All Authors
U.S.	57 (43.5%)	236 (39.5%)
Canada	7 (5.3%)	30 (5.0%)
Latin America	28 (21.4%)	137 (22.9%)
Europe	16 (12.2%)	76 (12.7%)
Wallacea	10 (7.6%)	38 (6.4%)
Asia	7 (5.3%)	45 (7.5%)
Africa	6 (4.6)	35 (5.9%)

Included countries: Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dutch Caribbean, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Venezuela); Europe (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK); Wallacea (Australia, New Zealand); Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Japan); Africa (Botswana, Madagascar, South Africa, Uganda).

(9) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015, including comparable data for 3 preceding years:

	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
Total number of accounts published	12	13	8	7
Accounts in proof.	3	2	6	3
Accounts with Editor.	20 ^a	20	21	15
Total number of accounts with Associate Editors.	51 ^b	54	56	55
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors.	22	30	23	24
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors.	18	25	18	23
Total number of accounts in preparation.	289 ^c	275	266	314
	^a Four inactive, 6 almost ready to be sent to Production. ^b 23 inactive. ^c 182 overdue			

Action Items:

- (1) Request \$375 (a decrease of \$560 from 2015, and \$860 from 2014) to cover the cost of printing archive copies of *Mammalian Species* for distribution to our 28 library partners.
- (2) Request an increase in honoraria to the *Journal* Associate Editor from \$14,300 to \$17,800.
- (3) Request a decrease in editorial assistance to the *Journal* Editor from \$30,000 to \$15,000, reflecting a change in management of this position and substantial savings.

Respectfully submitted,
 Douglas A. Kelt
 Director of Publications
dakelt@ucdavis.edu