

## Publications Committee

**Committee Members:** D. A. Kelt (incoming *Chair*), D. M Leslie (outgoing *Chair*), J. F. Merritt (*Journal Editor*), M. J. Hamilton (*Mammalian Species Editor*), B. Arbogast, H. Beck, A. G. Blake, B. H. Blake, L. D. Hayes, W. L. Gannon, J.M. Harris, L. D. Hayes, R. Janssen (interim AP Managing Editor), M. Kalcounis-Rüegg, C. W. Kilpatrick, B. K. Lim, C. R. Maher, E. A. Mueller (outgoing AP Managing Editor), R. W. Norris, R. A. Ojeda, M. K. Oli, P. R. Owen, R. A. Powell, I. S. Prange, E. A. Rickart, V. Sánchez-Cordero, L. A. Shipley, W. P. Smith, P. T. Stapp, M. A. Steele, R. D. Stevens, B. J. Swanson, D. H. Van Vuren, S. M. Wisely, N. Woodman, 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 over the past year include: (a) arranging for the printing and distribution of the 2011 *Mammalian Species* Archive book, (b) approval of a third updated *Mammalian Species* account on 13-lined ground squirrel (originally no. 103), and (c) recruiting additional Associate Editors and a new Editor for Reviews for the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

(2) In 2010, the Society established a Fast Track option for rapid online publication of new taxa. Although the Publication Committee looks forward to capitalizing on this venue for facilitating the rapid publication of new taxa, to date we have received no submissions for Fast Track publication.

(3) The past year has been one of transition as Chip Leslie gradually vacated his role as Chair, mentoring Doug Kelt as he gradually learns the ropes. Chip Leslie served as Journal Editor from 1997-2001 and Special Features Editor from 2001-2003; he also served as Committee Chair from 1999-2011. The leadership and guidance provided by Chip has strengthened our publications and leaves daunting shoes to fill, and the Committee believes that the Society owes a deep debt of appreciation to Chip for his selfless service to our mutual benefit.

Additionally, Emily Mueller left Allen Press on 30 March 2012. Emily accepted a position with another society-based journal and will be moving to Madison, Wisconsin. We wish Emily the very best and are certain she will be a "star editor" as she was with *JM*. Emily's efforts as Managing Editor are being covered in an interim basis by Rita Janssen, another long-time affiliate of Allen Press.

In January of this year, Brian Arbogast stepped down as AE due to illness. Ryan W. Norris offered to serve as AE while continuing his service as Editor for Fast-track. Jon Jenks retired from his AE role in late 2011, and Dirk Van Vuren will retire from his service in June. We have been operating 3 AEs short of the Board-approved level of 24 AEs. To address these concerns we have sought replacements for 4 AEs for the *Journal*. We are in the process of securing 1 additional AE to equitably distribute editing duties among our hard-working committee members.

(4) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012:

**Volume 92, No. 6;** 16 Feature articles, 1 obituary, 1 Special Feature with 7 papers

**Volume 93, No. 1;** 25 Feature articles, 1 book review

**Volume 93, No. 2;** 21 Feature articles, 1 Special Feature with 11 papers

**Volume 93, No. 3;** 24 Feature articles, 1 obituary, 1 book review

**Volume 93, No. 4;** 22 Feature articles, 1 Special Feature with 6 papers

**Manuscripts submitted, accepted, and rejected:**

Number of manuscripts submitted: 483 (compared to 380 last year)

Number of manuscripts accepted: 154 (compared to 83 last year)

Number of manuscripts rejected: 218 (compared to 210 last year)

Rejection rate: 58% (compared to 72% last year)

Total Final Decisions: 372 (accepted + rejected)

**Handling times:**

Volume 92, Nos. 2-6

Submission to acceptance: 213 days (6.9 months)

Acceptance to publication: 186 days (6.1 months)

Total time: 400 days (13.1 months)

Volume 93, Nos. 1-4

Submission to acceptance: 175 days (5.7 months)

Acceptance to publication: 198 days (6.5 months)

Total time: 373 days (12.2 months)

**Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:**

Vol. 92, Nos. 2-6: 51.4% U.S., 6.6% Canada, 14.2% Latin America, 27.6% other countries  
(*n* = 105)

Vol. 93, Nos. 1-4: 69.7% U.S., 2.7% Canada, 11% Latin America, 16.5% other countries  
(*n* = 109)

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

Total number of accounts published = 18 (27 last year)

Accounts in proof, scheduled for release in May = 1

Accounts with Editor = 17

Total number of accounts with Associate Editors = 30

Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors = 12  
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors = 26  
Total number of accounts in preparation = 371 (170 overdue)

**Action Items:**

- (1) New Associate Editors and Editor for Reviews: The Committee seeks Board approval of Sharon A. Jansa (Bell Museum of Natural History and University of Minnesota, St. Paul), Chris Pavey (CSIRO Ecosystem Services, Alice Springs, Australia), Jeanette A. Thomas (Western Illinois University-Quad Cities, Moline), and Marcus V. Vieira (Univ. Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) as Associate Editors, and Peter L. Meserve (Northern Illinois University, DeKalb) as Editor for Reviews for the *Journal of Mammalogy*.
- (2) Request an increase in Journal Editor's budget from \$55,000 to \$70,000 this year as discussed in 2011.
- (3) Re-instate a stipend of \$2,000 for the Committee Chair.
- (4) Request \$1,500 (increase of \$100) 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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