

Publications Advisory Board

Committee Members: P. Stapp (Publications Director). *Journal of Mammalogy*: Editor-in-Chief – E. Heske; Associate Editors – P. Barboza, H. Beck, L. Carraway, M. Cherry, R. Constantine, N. Doehtermann, J. Esselstyn, J. Goheen, L. Hayes, A. Hohn, J. Hopkins, T. Jezkova, J. Light, S. Loeb, K. Monteith, R. Moratelli, R. Ojeda, J. Ortega Reyes, J. Pauli, C. R. Pavey, A. Piaggio, R. Reyna-Huertado, D. Rogers, L. Ruedas, J. Scheibe, R. Schooley, B. Swanson, J. Thomas, M. Vieira, P. Zollner; Special Features Editor – R. Powell; Book Review Editor – M. Kalcounis-Ruppell. Editorial Assistant – B. Blake. *Mammalian Species*: Editor-in-Chief – M. Hamilton; Associate Editors – C. Cooper, S. Eiseb, C. Kilpatrick, P. Owen, B. Rose, S. Solari. *Oxford University Press*: M. Bickett (Production), S. Bewley (Advertising), S. Wolper (Editorial Assistance), S. Larche (ScholarOne), C. China-LeCraft (Marketing), F. Williams (Lead/Publisher).

Mission:

The Publications Advisory Board (PAB) oversees the publications of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM), which includes the *Journal of Mammalogy (JM)* and *Mammalian Species (MS)*. The PAB sets editorial policy for ASM and nominates editors for approval by the Board of Directors. The PAB typically is composed of current editors, who are involved in reviewing and accepting papers and the technical production of the publications. Key publishing partners from Oxford University Press (OUP) are invited to serve as *ex officio* non-voting members.

Information Items:

(1) General Information. ASM is now in its final year of a 5-year publishing contract with Oxford University Press (OUP), after a 59-year association with Allen Press (1956-2015). We are currently negotiating a renewal of the publishing agreement with OUP for 2020-2024, with the assistance of Jennifer Kulgren, Dana Compton, and Cara Rivera from Kaufman Wills Fusting & Company, LLC (KWF), the publishing consultant that we used for our original OUP contract. Upon their advice, we also engaged an attorney, Susan Carlson, with Chicago Law Partners LLC, to review the language of the final contract with OUP. Details of the negotiations and final terms will be provided to the Board in a separate report. I will update the Board via email between now and the Annual Meeting and provide a full report at the Board of Directors Meeting.

ASM celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019 and the June issue of Volume 100 of *JM* was a collection of invited articles that commemorated the Society's history and summarized the state of the science of mammalogy. In addition to being sent to print members, printed copies of the Centennial Issue were made available to members and non-members alike, at cost, for \$15. I am very grateful for the dedicated efforts of Alicia Linzey and her editorial team, as well as EIC Ed Heske, for compiling and editing such a memorable Centennial Issue. We thank OUP for publishing the issue without page charges to authors and for providing a reduced cost on color print images. The PAB also thanks the Board for the funding that they allocated to this effort.

Mammalian Species also celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The first Species Account, on *Macrotus waterhousii* and authored by Sydney Anderson, was published in 1969. After a year

(1970) with no issue (1970), the journal has published between 4 and 42 accounts each year (21 on average), with Number 970 published at the end of 2018. We will have some special trading cards on hand at this year's meeting that celebrate the history of ASM.

(2) Editorial Staff. *JM* and *MS* are the most visible products of the ASM. The success of these is a direct reflection of the efforts of the editors for both journals, who comprise the bulk of the PAB. 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. Editing is a rewarding job but not without its challenges; as all authors know, however, editors are instrumental to the success of each and every one of us! I encourage all Society members to thank members of the PAB, listed on the first page of this report, in person.

I am indebted to Ed Heske and Meredith Hamilton for leading their respective editorial teams through another successful year. I also want to recognize the efforts of the team at OUP, led by Fiona Williams, who have contributed to the production, delivery, and marketing of the journals. I want to thank the members of the Nomenclature Committee, especially Ryan Norris, Al Gardner, and Associate Editors Ricardo Moratelli (*JM*) and Sergio Solari (*MS*), for their continued assistance with taxonomy issues that arise as part of our editorial process, and Sean Maher, Chair of the Informatics Committee, for his ongoing assistance with publications-related content on the ASM webpage.

Three AEs for *JM*, Perry Barboza, Toni Piaggio, and Duke Rogers resigned their posts this year, with Duke serving five years and Toni and Perry each serving a three-year term. Sadly, Jeanette Thomas, who was an AE for *JM* for 6 years and was a mainstay for manuscripts on marine mammals, passed away in summer 2018. Susan Loeb was willing to step in on short notice following Jeanette's passing. The Society thanks them all for their service to the Journal. I am currently seeking replacements and will submit to the ASM Board the names and qualifications of individuals nominated to fill these positions, with the aim of having a full complement of new Associate Editors approved by the Board to begin their new terms at the end of the Annual Meeting.

Lastly, as many of you have heard, Ed has decided to resign his post as EIC of *JM* after three years. This was his second stint as EIC/Journal Editor and we appreciate his willingness to offer his time and service to ASM, despite having recently retired his fulltime position from the University of Illinois. Ed raised the profile and stature of the Journal and made a special effort to make every issue interesting, attractive, and informative. He was a careful and tireless editor, and the AEs and I will miss his cheerful Friday emails. Ed has agreed to help out with the transition to a new EIC between the Annual Meeting and the first issue of Volume 101 in February 2021.

(3) Editorial Policies and Procedures. Given the dynamic nature of the academic publishing landscape, the PAB, and especially the Editors-in-Chief, deal with a wide range of editorial issues regularly. In order to provide consistent information to authors and editorial staff and avoid confusion, the EICs and I aim to update the Instructions to Authors for each journal once per year, shortly after the Annual Meeting, with changes to be adopted with the next volume.

As many of you know, the Buddy System is a successful program that benefits authors whose primary language is not English. The Buddy System partners such authors with a volunteer to help them improve the written presentation of research that seems scientifically sound, and to increase the odds that their manuscript will be eventually published in *JM* or *MS*. The Buddy System was initially conceived in 1994 by Tom Lacher and the International Relations Committee (IRC); Barbara Blake has generously overseen it since 2001, with the help of Alicia Linzey on the IRC. This is an outstanding service that ASM provides to its authors. Authors who could benefit from the Buddy System are encouraged to contact Barbara, Alicia or one of the EICs.

(4) Distribution, Availability, and Promotion of Publications. ASM members and visitors occasionally express some frustration with online journal content, including inaccessible and missing articles, confusion about accessing the journal pages, and the quality of some pdfs. If you encounter any technical problems, please let me know immediately and I will pass them on to OUP. Many technical problems are handled centrally at OUP and outside of the control of our immediate OUP contacts, so your patience is appreciated.

OUP has recently created an Author Resource Guide for each journal to help authors promote their recently published work. The guides contain advice about how to use various forms of social media to highlight recent articles and to drive traffic to the OUP journals. Authors should receive the guide when their manuscript is published.

Lastly, as was the case last year, I am requesting funds to publish 30 print copies of the 15 issues of online-only *Mammalian Species*, Volume 50, Accounts 956-970. Twenty-eight of these will be sent to archival libraries, and two will be available for purchase. The estimated cost of printing is \$375, which is the same as in last year's budget. There was a significant delay in shipping the 2017 archived volume last year, but we expect that the 2018 volume will be shipped by the Annual Meeting this year.

(5) Publication Statistics. Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2018 and 1 April 2019.

Composition of recent issues of *JM*:

Issue	Feature Articles	Special Feature / Invited Articles / Obituaries	Book Reviews	Pages
99.3	20	0	2	241
99.4	20	1	2	261
99.5	24	0	4	259
99.6	27	0	2	280
100.1	18	0	3	270
100.2	29	1	6	337
Total	138	2	19	1,648

The page budget for *JM* is 333 pages per issue (~2,000 pages per year). We published 1,041 pages in 2018, 291 pages below the page budget, and to date, 607 pages in 2019, which was 59 pages fewer than budgeted. OUP has informed me that, effective in 2020, we will no longer have a fixed page budget and will not be penalized for exceeding a certain number of pages.

***JM* handling and production times (Feature articles in 99.3-100.1; n = 109):**

Issue	Avg Submission to Acceptance	Acceptance to Print (online/ paper)*	Total Time (online/ paper)*
99.3	159 days (5.3 mo)	33/ 85 days (1.1/ 2.8 mo)	193/ 245 days (6.4/ 8.2 mo)
99.4	182 days (6.1 mo)	31/ 93 days (1.0/ 3.1 mo)	213/ 275 days (7.1/ 9.2 mo)
99.5	192 days (6.4 mo)	24/ 104 days (0.8/ 3.5 mo)	216/ 296 days (7.2/ 9.9 mo)
99.6	164 days (5.5 mo)	29/ 85 days (1.0/ 2.8 mo)	193/ 249 days (6.4/ 8.3 mo)
100.1	157 days (5.2 mo)	37/ 102 days (1.2/ 3.4 mo)	194/ 259 days (6.7/ 8.8 mo)
100.2	-	-	-
AVG	171 days (5.7 mo)	31/ 94 days (1.0/ 3.1 mo)	202/ 265 days (6.7/ 8.8 mo)
2017-18 (n = 136)	194 days (6.5 mo)	44/ 106 days (1.5/ 3.5 mo)	237/ 299 days (7.9/ 10.0 mo)

* - time to publishing online/ print in paper

Manuscript handling and production times for *JM* Feature articles have improved considerably (~2-6 weeks) since last year, continuing an increase in efficiency over the past few years. For accepted manuscripts, the average time to acceptance is now less than 6 months and less than 9 months to print. Comments from authors on both the review process and production are overwhelming positive and rankings on all aspects of review and production are well over 4 (out of 5). However, all issues of *JM* this year were delayed beyond scheduled production and shipping. Handling and production time data were not available from OUP for 100.2 because of the April issue was not completed by the submission date for this report.

Geographic distribution of corresponding authors of all manuscripts accepted for publication between 1 April 2017 and 1 April 2018; n = 177 manuscripts; *JM* authors came from 25 countries on all continents except Antarctica:

Location	Corresponding Author (%)
U.S.	96 (54.2)
Canada	9 (5.1)
Latin America	34 (19.2)
Europe	14 (7.9)

Oceania	11 (6.2)
Asia	9 (5.1)
Africa	4 (2.3)

Represented countries, besides the U.S. and Canada: Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico); Europe (Georgia, Italy, Jersey, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, U.K.); Oceania (Australia, New Zealand); Asia (China, Israel, Japan, Kuwait); Africa (South Africa, Tanzania). *JM* continues to receive fairly high numbers of manuscripts from authors outside the U.S. (56% of 330 manuscripts with a final decision, from 47 countries), but rejection rates tend to be much higher for manuscripts from outside the U.S. (56%) than for those with U.S. authors (34%), possibly reflecting the challenge for authors whose first language might not be English. Such authors are encouraged to take advantage of ASM's Buddy System.

Manuscripts (*JM* Feature Articles only) submitted, accepted, and rejected between 1 April 2018 and 1 April 2019, including comparable data for 3 preceding years:

Category	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Number of manuscripts submitted	359	261	308	351
Number of manuscripts accepted/ provisionally accepted (a)	87	65	63	89
Number of manuscripts rejected (r)	141	105	165	164
Rejection rate [r/(a+r)] %	62	62	72	65
Total Final Decisions (a + r)	228	170	228	253

Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2018 and 1 April 2019, including comparable data for 3 preceding years:

Statistic	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Total number of accounts published	15	14	12	12
Accounts in proof	3	4	4	3
Accounts with Editor-in-Chief	26 ^a	32	25	20
Total number of accounts with Associate Editors	35 ^b	32	50	51
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors	17	15	32	22
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors	14	34	21	18
Total number of accounts in preparation	257 ^c	290	237	289

^a Five inactive, seven moving to production by mid-June

^b 21 inactive

^c 99 overdue

Action Items (changes from 2019):

- (1) Request \$200 for the Editor for Reviews to ship books to review authors.
- (2) Request \$1,430 for publishing two obituaries in *JM*, at a member page-charge rate of \$20 (average 12 pages) and with one color image each @ \$475.
- (3) Request that a \$10,000 fund be established for the Publications Director to administer waivers of page charges or other publishing expenses to facilitate publication of articles in *JM* by authors lacking sufficient institutional or grant funds, especially for manuscripts deemed likely to have a high impact.
- (4) Increase the expense for shipping archives of *MS* from \$375 to \$400 to account for projected increases in cost from OUP.
- (5) Details of the new publishing agreement with OUP, which included substantial changes to expenses and revenues associated with the journals, were provided to the Board in April and will be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stapp

Director of Publications

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