

Publications Advisory Board¹

Committee Members: D. A. Kelt (Director of Publications); *Journal of Mammalogy*; Journal Editor – J. F. Merritt; Associate Editors – K. B. Aubry, H. Beck, L. Carraway, J. Esselstyn, L. Hayes, S. Jansa, T. Jezkova, C. Maher, M. Matocq, K. Monteith, R. Norris, R. Ojeda, C. R. Pavey, R. A. Powell, S. Prange, 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 – M. J. Hamilton; Associate Editors – J. M. Harris, C. W. Kilpatrick, P. R. Owen, B. Rose, D. A. Zegers; Allen Press Staff (through 31 December 2014) – J. Cigard (Production), K. Ridgway (Lead); Oxford University Press Staff (as of 1 January 2015) – J. Martin (Production), J. Shillingsford (Marketing), F. Williams (Lead).

¹ The name of this committee was changed at the 2013 Annual Meeting from the Publications Committee to the Publications Advisory Board.

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 *Journal of Mammalogy* was published by Williams and Wilkins Co. (Baltimore, MD) from its beginning in 1919 through 1956 when Allen Press (Lawrence, KS) assumed this role. *Mammalian Species* has been printed by Allen Press since it was initiated in 1969. As of 1 January 2015, the American Society of Mammalogists initiated a 5-year publishing contract with Oxford University Press. The final issue of the *Journal* to be published by Allen Press was 96(6), published 30 December 2014; that of *Mammalian Species* was Account No. 917, on 18 December 2014. The Publications Advisory Board extends wishes to reiterate what we stated in our 2014 Report. After many productive years of close collaboration with Allen, and thank Karen Ridgway, Melanie Dolechek, Rita Janssen, Jane Cigard, Emily Mueller, Whitney Lohrenz, Kristi Bailey, Elizabeth Garrett, Cristi Classi, and all other AP staff who have helped us to convey our passion for the science of mammalogy.

As 2015 brings a new phase to ASM publishing, we welcome our new friends and colleagues to the table. At Oxford University Press these include David Crotty, Fiona Williams, Jan Martin, Jessica Shillingsford, and Simone Larche; Fiona, Jan, and Jessica have agreed to serve as *ex officio* members of our Advisory Board. We also benefitted from the temporary assistance of Angela Morgan, who helped smooth many of the wrinkles that are to be expected in any such transition. Although we expect more wrinkles, we believe that we are well over the crux at this point.

One minor change that members will see in the *Journal* is that we are moving foreign language abstracts to the front of articles. Colleagues at OUP noted that abstracts placed at the end of an article are not visible to readers scanning documents online; by moving this to the front of the article, both English and foreign language abstracts will be visible to online visitors, allowing them to assess the article before deciding to download (and potentially pay for) the article. We hope that this will facilitate greater international usage of the *Journal*.

(2) ASM Membership Management. This is ancillary to this Board, but is presented to close out a topic that was presented in the 2014 Report. In late 2014, Society Officers agreed that the best interests of the Society would be served by transferring the management of our membership from Allen Press Membership Management to Christy Classi, based in Topeka, Kansas. Christy worked with our Society for many years as a key contact at Allen Press. She moved on to new horizons a few years ago, but we are very pleased to reconnect and trust Christy with the sundry challenges associated with membership.

(3) In 2010, the Society established a Fast Track option for rapid online publication of new taxa. In 2013, we received our first submission for Fast Track publication. This was published online in December 2013. With the transfer to OUP, however, their online ahead of print system (Advance Access) is not immutable and consequently does not meet the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Therefore and by default, Fast Track is on hold while we work with OUP to assess the best means by which to reestablish such a venue for rapid publication of new taxonomic names. Society members that favor or disfavor Fast Track publication should feel free to contact the Director of Publications or any member of the Advisory Board.

(4) 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, we are sad to accept the resignation of 2 AEs from the *Journal of Mammalogy*. These include Suzanne (Suzie) Prange (4 years) and Ryan Norris (4 years), who also oversaw Fast Track publications for the Journal. *Mammalian Species* is pleased to note that all 5 AEs have expressed a desire to continue in their efforts on behalf of the Society.

(5) Under President Lacey the Society 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 2015 approved the following incoming class of 2 Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*: Ricardo Moratelli (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and Eric Gese. Terms for these AEs will commence at the end of the Annual Meeting.

(6) On 6 April 2015, Allen Press shipped their last annual compilation of *Mammalian Species* accounts. This comprised Volume 46, and included Accounts 905 through 917. We published

40 copies of Vol. 40; 28 of these were sent to archival libraries, and 12 are available for purchase.

(7) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2013 and 23 March 2014. Readers are invited to note the substantial decrease in handling times over the past 2 years; the increase in total time to publication in 96(1-2) reflects challenges associated with the transition to a new publisher, and are anticipated to decline in the coming issues.

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

	Feature Articles	Special Feature Articles	Book Reviews
95 (3)	10	0	2
95 (4)	20	0	2
95 (5)	16	0	2
95 (6)	11	6	2
96 (1)	22	4	4
96 (2)	20	0	1

Manuscripts submitted, accepted, and rejected, including comparable data for 2 preceding years:

	2014-15¹	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Number of manuscripts submitted	345	415	394	483
Number of manuscripts accepted	138	129	117	154
Number of manuscripts rejected	148	177	172	218
Rejection rate	52%	58%	59%	58%
Total Final Decisions (accepted + rejected)	286	306	289	372

Handling times: Data for Vol. 94(1-3) were reported in 2013; these are provided here to highlight increasing efficiency of manuscript processing.

	Submission to Acceptance	Acceptance to Publication	Total Time

¹ Allen Press only.

94 (1-3)	206 days (6.7 mo)	188 days (6.1 mo)	389 days (12.7 mo)
94 (3-6)	178 days (5.8 mo)	175 days (5.7 mo)	354 days (11.6 mo)
95 (1-2)	160 days (5.2 mo)	155 days (5.0 mo)	315 days (10.3 mo)
95 (3-6)	178 days (5.9 mo)	156 days (5.9 mo)	333 days (11.1 mo)
96 (1-2)	148 days (4.9 mo)	229 days (7.6 mo) ²	377 days (12.5 mo) ⁴

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

	<i>n</i>	U.S.	Canada	Latin America	Other Countries
94 (1-3)	68	48.5	5.9	17.6	27.9
94 (3-6)	75	42.7	14.7	20.0	22.7
95 (1-2)	37	51.4	8.1	18.9	21.6
95 (3-6)	71	47.9	4.2	18.3	29.6
96 (1-2)	42	54.8	2.4	9.5	33.3

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

	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Total number of accounts published	13	8	7	18
Accounts in proof.	2	6	3	1
Accounts with Editor.	20 ^a	21	15	17
Total number of accounts with Associate Editors.	54 ^b	56	55	30
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors.	30	23	24	12
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors.	25	18	23	26
Total number of accounts in preparation.	275 ^c	266	314	371
^a Four inactive, 6-7 almost ready to be sent to Production. ^b 24 inactive. ^c 176 overdue				

² Assumes 8 May publication date for 96(2).

Action Items:

(1) Request \$934.59 (decrease of ca. \$300 from 2014) to cover the cost of printing archive copies of *Mammalian Species* for distribution to our 28 library partners. Note that this year Allen Press delivered these 28 copies to Kelt at his home institution, and is sending these out to the 28 partners at no cost.

(2) Request an increase in honoraria to the *Mammalian Species* Editor from \$2000 to \$6000.

(3) Request an increase in honoraria to the *Journal* Editor from \$25,000 to \$40,000, a change approved in principle by the Board in 2011 (Portland) and subsequently tabled in the face of economic struggles; now seems a productive time to instigate this.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Publications

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