

Publications Committee

Committee Members: H. Beck, A. G. Blake, B. H. Blake, J. Cigard (Managing Editor), M. J. Hamilton (*Mammalian Species Editor*), J. M. Harris, L. D. Hayes, S. Jansa, M. Kalcounis-Rüppell, D. A. Kelt (*Chair*), C. W. Kilpatrick, B. K. Lim, C. R. Maher, J. F. Merritt (*Journal Editor*), P. L. Meserve, R. W. Norris, R. A. Ojeda, M. K. Oli, P. R. Owen, C. R. Pavey, 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, J. Thomas, 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) The most consequential activity of the Publications Committee over the past year has pertained to the solicitation of new contracts to manage both ASM publications and membership management. The Society is currently in the 4th year of 5-year contracts with Allen Press Publishing Services and with Allen Press Association Management. Both contracts will end at the end of 2014, and to ensure sufficient time for potential transfer of information to a new publication or membership management agency, we initiated, in consultation with President Heske, a process of securing a consulting agency to assist with the development and circulation of RFPs to solicit new contracts to begin in 2015. This process has been conducted by an ad hoc committee established by President Heske, and consisting of D. A. Kelt (Chair), S. McLaren, D. M. Leslie, Jr., R. Van den Bussche, and H. Lanier. We contacted three consulting groups, and in consultation with the ASM Board of Directors selected Kaufman Wills Fusting and Company (KWF) to assist with this process. KWF developed separate RFPs for each contract, and worked closely with the ad hoc committee to refine these as necessary.

- i. The ASM Board approved up to \$20,000 in consulting services with KWF in an off-cycle appropriation to the 2013 budget. President Heske trimmed \$13,500 from other areas of the 2013 budget in partial offset.
- ii. At the time of this report, RFPs have been solicited and bids are being collected by KWF for analysis and presentation to the ad hoc committee. Prior to the annual meeting in Philadelphia KWF will work with the ad hoc committee to select a small number of finalists who will present bids to the ASM Board during the first Board meeting. We anticipate that the Board will select one bid for each contract, after which the ad hoc committee noted above will continue to work with KWF to finalize contracts with the successful bidder(s).

(2) The Publications Committee in consultation with Allen Press and President Heske initiated electronic release of the Table of Contents (ToC) to be sent to all members of the Society unless

they request not to receive this. This initiated with Vol. 93(6), and ToCs have been electronically distributed on 18 December 2013, 16 February 2013, and 17 April 2013.

(3) In an ongoing effort to reduce the time to publication, the Publications Committee worked with Allen Press to initiate a new publishing process to allow rapid online publication of papers once they have been accepted and copyedited. These are indicated as “Articles In Press” at <http://www.asmjournals.org/>; processes were established for this effort in late May 2012, and our first online-ahead-of-print article was posted on 24 August 2012. Through April 2013, we posted 92 articles online in advance of the printed *Journal*; at the time of this report 18 articles are listed. The mean time from the start of production (e.g., from the time the article is accepted and forwarded to Allen Press for formatting, copy-editing, submitting proofs to authors, incorporating any requisite changes) was 7.8 weeks (excluding time the proofs were with authors, 6.9 weeks; mean response time from authors was 4.3 days).

(4) 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.

(5) The Publications Committee excels through the dedication and efforts of its membership, and is responsible for producing the most visible products of ASM; currently this includes the *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species*. The editors and associate editors of both products have continued to display profound passion and dedication for these products, and they deserve the appreciation of every member of the Society. This year, we are sad to accept the resignation of 4 AEs from the *Journal of Mammalogy*. These include Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell (3 years), Madan Oli (4 years), Paul Stapp (7 years), and Samantha Wisely (3 years), and they represent a combined 17 years of editing service to the *Journal* and the Society. Barring these losses, we have continued to operate with 23 AEs, one short of the Board-approved level of 24 AEs. We are in the process of securing replacements for the above 4 AEs, and while the *Journal* appears to be operating suitably with 23 AEs, we continue to monitor the need for the 24th AE.

Mammalian Species continues to operate with 5 AEs, and while some have indicated a desire to step down in the coming year, we remain stable for the time being. The Committee will be considering replacements for those AEs who might wish to step down.

(6) In recent years, we have published a compilation of *Mammalian Species* accounts at the end of the year. Normally we purchase about 60 copies; 28 of these are sent to archival libraries while the remaining copies are retained for independent sale. Productivity of *Mammalian Species* varies from year to year reflecting the vagaries of individual author motivations. This year, we have produced only 7 complete accounts, and as such, we have deferred publication of a Book until next year when we will publish a 2-year book.

(7) Jane Cigard assumed the role of Managing Editor at Allen Press, relieving Rita Janssen of her interim position last year. Both have proven to be reliable sources of information and assistance to the Publication Committee.

(8) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013:

Volume 93, No. 5; 16 Feature articles, 1 book review
Volume 93, No. 6; 14 Feature articles
Volume 94, No. 1; 22 Feature articles, 3 book reviews
Volume 94, No. 2; 24 Feature articles, 3 book reviews
Volume 94, No. 3; 22 Feature articles, 1 book review

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

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of manuscripts submitted	394	483	380
Number of manuscripts accepted	117	154	83
Number of manuscripts rejected	172	218	210
Rejection rate	59%	58%	72%
Total Final Decisions (accepted + rejected)	289	372	n.a.

Handling times:

Volume 93, Nos. 5-6

Submission to acceptance: 220 days (7.2 months)
 Acceptance to publication: 191 days (6.2 months)
 Total time: 412 days (13.5 months)

Volume 93, Nos. 1-3

Submission to acceptance: 206 days (6.7 months)
 Acceptance to publication: 188 days (6.1 months)
 Total time: 389 days (12.7 months)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 93, Nos. 5-6: 50.0% U.S., 10.0% Canada, 16.6% Latin America, 23.3% other countries ($n = 30$)

Vol. 94, Nos. 1-3: 48.5% U.S., 5.9% Canada, 17.6% Latin America, 27.9% other countries ($n = 68$)

(9) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, including comparable data for 2 preceding years:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Total number of accounts published	7	18	27
Accounts in proof, scheduled for release in May	3	1	4
Accounts with Editor	15	17	15
Total number of accounts	55	30	35

with Associate Editors			
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors	24 submitted, 18 assigned (6 awaiting QC issues, soon to be assigned to AEs)	12	25
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors	23	26	42
Total number of accounts in preparation	314 (203 overdue)	371 (170 overdue)	394 (220 overdue)

Action Items:

(1) New Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*: The Committee seeks Board approval of Marjorie Matocq (University of Nevada, Reno) and Keith Aubry (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, and University of Washington, Seattle) as Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas A. Kelt, Chair
dakelt@ucdavis.edu