

## ASM PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

15 MAY 2002

Members: R. E. Barry, B. H. Blake (Chair), R. D. Bradley, M. D. Engstrom, W. L. Gannon, R. D. Gettinger, V. Hayssen, D. A. Kelt, J. G. Kie, S. Larivière, D. M. Leslie, Jr., L. Marinelli, J. F. Merritt, E. H. Miller, T. J. O'Shea,

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### Highlights

*Electronic manuscript submission.*—Journal Editor (Blake), and Editor of Mammalian Species (Hayssen), attended a seminar on electronic manuscript tracking at Allen Press in September 2001. In October 2001 the Journal began accepting electronic submissions of manuscripts as attachments to e-mail. Blake has proposed to the Board that ASM subscribe to a commercial manuscript-tracking system; she and Hayssen are looking at several systems, comparing costs and services.

*Mammalian Species.*—Mammalian Species accounts number 1-631 have been converted to PDF files and are available on the Internet. The files are housed on a server at Smith College, along with an index to accounts, and they are accessible through the ASM website.

*Personnel.*—Ron Barry, Associate Editor for the *Journal*, and Serge Larivière, Associate Editor for *Mammalian Species*, are ending their terms. Tom Tomasi resigned his position as Associate Editor for the *Journal* due to other commitments (and Mark Engstrom was appointed in his place). Regrettably, Elaine Anderson, Associate Editor for fossils for *Mammalian Species*, died this spring. We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and editorial contributions to ASM and to mammalogy that these editors made, and we extend our sympathy to family and friends of Elaine Anderson.

#### *Journal of Mammalogy*—1 May 2001 to 1 May 2002

Volume 82, Nos. 1-4; issued on schedule; 1156 pages published with 10 Special Features; 10-year index published as a supplement to number 4.

Volume 83, No. 1-4; all issues full and on schedule, no Special Features; an addendum to the 10-year index was included in No. 1.

Volume 84, No. 1; 6 manuscripts accepted.

Number of manuscripts published

Volume 82 (2001): 98 manuscripts published

Volume 83 (2002): 105 manuscripts to be published

Number of manuscripts submitted: 280 (compared to mean of 250 for previous 6 years)

(This includes 27 submitted to Leslie through 30 June 2001 and 253 to Blake 1 July 2001 to 1 May 2002.)

Electronic submissions (31 October to 10 May 2002): 45 out of 167 manuscripts (27%)

Rejection rate: 55%

Handling times; means, volumes 82(3, 4) and 83(1-4)

Submission of manuscript to acceptance: 7.8 months (vs. 8.4 last year)

Acceptance to publication: 8.7 months (vs. 9.3 last year)

Total time, submission to publication: 16.5 months (vs. 17.7 last year)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts

	<u>Volume 82</u>		<u>Volume 83</u>	
	<u><i>n</i></u>		<u><i>n</i></u>	
United States	65	(65%)	61	(58%)
Canada	11	(11%)	6	(6%)
Latin America	8	(8%)	13	(12%)
other foreign	16	(16%)	26	(25%)
Total	100		106	

***Mammalian Species***—21 April 2001 to 23 April 2002

Total number of accounts published and to be published: 28; 164 pages

Autumn 2001 (26 December 2001: Nos.675-688

Spring 2002: Nos. 689-702

Index, Spring 2002: Nos. 1-700.

Time from submission to publication: 2.5 years (range, 1.2-5.4 years; autumn only)

Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to an Associate Editor: 27

Number of new species accounts assigned: 44

Number of accounts available on line as PDF files: 631

Letters or e-mail messages have been sent for all past-due accounts

Back inventory of *Mammalian Species*: Excess inventory of accounts  $\geq 5$  years old were removed from Allen Press's warehouse by Timm and are being stored at Kansas University.

### **Special Publications**

*Anatomy of the Woodchuck*.—This volume has had 2 peer reviews and is now being revised by the author.

Other proposals.—last year, after receiving a proposal for an edited volume entitled “Mammals of Coniferous Forests of the Pacific Northwest,” Leslie informed the editors they could submit a draft for peer review; however, to date the draft has not been submitted. We have also been informed that a proposal is being prepared for a volume entitled, “Biology of the Octodontidae.”

Back inventory of Special Publications.—A special sale of available copies of volumes 1-11 was held. Allen Press received 196 responses to the flyer that was issued, resulting in the sale of 1,254 copies.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. **New Editors:** The Committee seeks Board approval of nominees to replace editors completing their terms.
2. **Electronic manuscript tracking system:** We request the Board to consider our proposal to subscribe to a commercial manuscript-tracking system. Such a system allows authors to submit manuscripts on-line, moves manuscripts between editors and to reviewers as PDF files, keeps track of all actions in the processes of peer review and revision, and keeps records of all transactions. We feel that such a system would greatly improve the efficiency and speed of handling manuscripts as well as saving postage. A commercial system would cost approximately \$10,000 a year, with higher costs in the 1<sup>st</sup> year. Additional details are included in the proposal that was submitted to President Kunz and the Board.