

Publications Committee

Committee Members: B. H. Blake, R. D. Bradley, W. L. Gannon, R. D. Gettinger, V. Hayssen, E. C. Hellgren, E. J. Heske, D. A. Kelt, E. A. Kemmeter, D. M. Leslie, Jr. (Chair), E. P. Lessa, B. McGuire, J. F. Merritt, G. R. Michener, P. R. Owen, P. S. Reynolds, E. A. Rickart, N. G. Solomon, F. W. Weckerly, D. W. Weller

Information Items:

(1) The Publication Committee has been very busy and productive this past year, following the Board's 2003 approval to increase the layout and number of annual issues of *Journal of Mammalogy* from 4 to 6 and to enroll both the *Journal* and *Mammalian Species* in AllenTrack (i.e., online manuscript submissions). Editor Blake and her team of associate editors deserve a *great deal* of credit for accomplishing these major changes to the *Journal* on time and for their part in decreasing the time from submission to publication from 19.6 months to 14.7 months! AllenTrack will be operational with a formal announcement to members and readers of ASM publications in the June 2004 issue of the *Journal*.

(2) Leslie and Van Den Bussche (ASM Secretary-Treasurer) met with Allen Press personnel (Theresa Pickel, Angie Fine, and Kimberly Fisher) in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on 28 April 2004. Relative to publications, Allen Press has proposed a new publishing agreement to reflect the 2004 changes to the *Journal* and to include electronic availability of ASM periodicals through a "silo" site maintained by Allen Press (members would have access to ASM content at BioOne and JSTOR).

(3) Penny Reynolds and Dave Weller, Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, and Gail Michener, Associate Editor for *Mammalian Species*, are stepping down early due to other commitments; Ron Gettinger, Associate Editor for *Mammalian Species*, and Doug Kelt, Editor for Reviews for the *Journal* are ending their terms. We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and editorial contributions of the outgoing editors.

(4) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 May 2003 and 30 April 2004 are as follows:

Volume 84, Nos. 1–4; issued on schedule; 1,510 pages with 2 Special Features

Volume 85, Nos. 1–6; all issues full and on schedule with no Special Features

Volume 86, No. 1; 10 manuscripts scheduled to date

Volume 84, 125 manuscripts published

Volume 85, 145 manuscripts scheduled

Number of manuscripts submitted: 310 (compared to 298 last year)

Electronic submissions: 89% of manuscripts submitted as attachments to e-mail

Rejection rate: 64% (unchanged from last year)

Average handling times for Volume 85, Nos. 1–6:

Submission to acceptance: 6.0 months (last year, 8.2 months)

Acceptance to publication: 11.8 months (last year, 9.4 months)

Total time: 17.8 months (last year, 17.5 months)

Decrease in scheduled handling time throughout the year for Volume 85:

Issues 1–3: Total time 19.6 months (published)

Issues 4–5: Total time 16.5 months (scheduled)

Issue 6: Total time 14.7 months (scheduled)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 84: 62% U.S., 5% Canada, 10% Latin America, 23% Other Foreign ($n = 125$)

Vol. 85: 56% U.S., 8% Canada, 14% Latin America, 22% Other Foreign ($n = 145$)

(5) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2003 and 1 April 2004 are as follows:

Total number of accounts published and to be published: 21

Autumn 2003: Nos. 729–738

Spring 2004: Nos. 739–749

Time from submission to publication: 2.7 years (range, 1.4–5.3 years)

Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to an Associate Editor: 22

Total number of accounts with Associate Editors: 59

Total number of accounts with Editor: 4

Number of new species accounts assigned: 29

Total number of accounts in preparation: 276 (166 overdue)

Number of accounts available on line as PDF files: 631

Letters or e-mail messages sent to all past-due accounts

(6) Publication statistics for Special Publications are as follows:

Anatomy of the Woodchuck.— Authors (A. J. Bezuidenhout and H.E. Evans, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University) submitted the revised manuscript and disk on 19 February 2004: 11 chapters, 278 pages of text (double-spaced), and 109 illustrations (5 half tones, 104 line diagrams). Joe Merritt contacted Angie Fine (Allen Press) on 6 April 2004 to establish protocol for production; conditions continue to be that the authors provide the entire manuscript (including line drawings and half tones) electronically and submit \$10,000 in support of the publication.

Other proposals.— Dr. Mariella Superina, DVM (University of New Orleans), submitted a proposal for a publication titled "Biology and Maintenance of Armadillos." Proposed table of contents and electronic manuscript, which represents a Ph.D. dissertation from the University of Zurich, were received in autumn 2003. Committee will discuss this proposal at the 2004 annual meeting.

Action Items:

(1) New Editors: The Committee seeks Board approval of Gerardo Ceballos, Craig Frank, and Doug Kelt as Associate Editors and Serge Larivière as Editor for Reviews for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, and Ron Gettinger as Associate Editor for *Mammalian Species*.

(2) New Publishing Contract: The Committee seeks Board consideration of a new publishing contract from Allen Press, Inc. to include electronic availability of current and archival content in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and content since 2000 in *Mammalian Species* to all members; proposal includes a request to increase individual membership dues from \$35 to \$45 for regular members and from \$25 to \$30 for students.

Respectfully submitted,
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