

Publications Advisory Board

Committee Members: J. Goheen (Publications Director). *Journal of Mammalogy*: Editor-in-Chief – B. Riddle, Managing Editor – B. Lim; Associate Editors – L. Ammerman, S. Crimmins, C. Davy, J. Frey, D. Ge, A. Greenville, M. Hawkins, L. Hayes, C. Jacques, R. Lonsinger, K. Mabry, A. Maldonado-Chaparro, M. McGowen, B. McLean, B. McMillan, R. Moratelli, A. Mortelliti, J. Ortega Reyes, J. Pauli, A. Percequillo, N. Pillay, R. Reyna-Hurtado, K. Rowe, J. Scheibe, T. Smyser, R. Stevens, T. Tomasi, P. Zollner; *Special Features Editor* – J. Alston; *Associate Editor for Language Coordination* – V. Hayssen; *Mammalian Species*: Editor-in-Chief – M. Hamilton; Associate Editors – C. Cooper, A. Feijó, D. Leslie, P. Owen, U. Pardiñas, S. Solari; *Oxford University Press*: F. McDonald (Lead/Publisher), L. Perrota (incoming Lead/Publisher), A. Montgomery (Journal Manager), R. Gaddy (Advertising), S. Larche (ScholarOne), M. Senderling (Marketing), K. Woodward (J&J Editorial Assistant).

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 in second year of a six-year contract with OUP (from January 2024 through December 2029).

In March 2025, our representative from OUP (Fiona McDonald) announced that Liz Perrota will be taking her place in managing *JM* and *MS*. We thank Fiona for her decade of managing ASM's journals, and wish her the best on her next professional steps.

ASM continues to support publishing by members who lack grant or institutional funds through the Hardship Publishing Grants program. Through 1 March 2025, I received and funded eight applications for grants at an estimated cost of \$1940. Most have come from authors from developing countries that are suffering economic crises that reduce research funding severely.

(2) Editorial Staff. *JM* and *MS* are the most visible products of the ASM. Their success is a direct reflection of the efforts of the editorial teams of 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 effectively as possible. I also want to recognize the efforts of the team at OUP, especially Fiona McDonald, Liz Perrota, Matt Senderling, Anna Katherine Montgomery (OUP Production) and Kathleen Woodward (J&J Editorial).

The Associate Editors (AEs) interact the most with authors and reviewers and deserve the Society's thanks for their roles in maintaining the high standard of work in our journals. Effective at the end of June 2025, seven subject-matter AEs for *JM*—Christina Davy (4 years), Melissa Hawkins (4 years), Chris Jacques (5 years), Ricardo Moratelli (10 years), Alessio Mortelliti (4 years), Kevin Rowe (7 years), and Tim Smyser (6 years)—will be stepping down. I am grateful for all their years of service to our publications.

For July 2025, I request approval from the Board of Directors in appointing the following individuals as AEs:

- Victoria Bennett, Texas Christian University
- Roland Kays, North Carolina State University and Museum of Natural Sciences
- Guilherme Garbino, Universidade Federal de Viçosa (Brazil)
- Jason Malaney, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science
- Joy O'Keefe, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana
- Teri Orr, New Mexico State University

We are fortunate to have outstanding senior leadership at our journals: Brett Riddle (Editor-In-Chief; EIC) and Burton Lim (Managing Editor; ME) at *JM* and Meredith Hamilton (EIC) at *MS*. Brett's term end 30 June 2025. He has worked diligently to reduce the backlog of manuscripts submitted during the 2020-2021 pandemic, and at the time of this writing Brett had cleared all 'AE recommends accept pending revision' manuscripts from his Editor's Center, and plans to keep it consistently below a maximum of 5. Therefore, I will advocate for his reappointment to the Board of Directors.

Brett, Burton, and I are in regular (typically weekly) communication with regard to *JM* and I have appreciated their efficiency, professionalism, and clear communication. Brett and Burton have been instrumental in our transitioning from print/online to online-only, and also from an older to new format style. Both were major undertakings and I have appreciated their steady hands in ensuring they were completed without major glitches.

After 20 years of service to ASM as Editor-in-Chief of *MS*, Meredith Hamilton is stepping down. The ASM in general is fortunate to have had Meredith's leadership and expertise in this prominent position, and I am deeply grateful for her service. This level of sustained commitment is highly unusual (if not unique) and the ASM owes Meredith a sincere debt of gratitude.

Since January 2025, Luis Ruedas has been working closely with Meredith in transitioning to the new EIC of *MS*. I request board approval in appointing Luis Ruedas as the EIC of *MS*, to begin 1 July 2025.

In addition, I want to recognize members of the Nomenclature Committee for their continued assistance navigating taxonomy issues that arise as part of our editorial process for both journals; and Sean Maher, Chair of the Informatics Committee, for his help with social media and publications-related content on the ASM webpage. I am extremely appreciative of Ginny Hayssen for her willingness to continue coordinating both the Buddy System and the translation of abstracts as the AE for Language Coordination.

(3) Editorial Policies and Procedures. Given the dynamic nature of the academic publishing landscape, the PAB—and especially the EICs—deal with a wide range of editorial issues regularly. 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. An *Ad Hoc* committee consisting of Brett Riddle, Maya Juman, Link Olson, and Luis Ruedas have updated our *Instructions to Authors* for 2025, and they will be posted on the *JM* webpage as of 1 June 2025.

Brett, Burton, and I meet monthly via videoconference with OUP and *JM* editorial and production teams to discuss *JM* matters. These meetings continue to be useful and productive.

(4) Distribution, Availability, and Promotion of Publications. ASM members and readers occasionally express frustration with our publications, including inaccessible and missing articles and Supplementary Materials and errors on proofs and billing. If you encounter any problems, please let me know directly and immediately, and I will try to remedy them as quickly as possible. Some technical matters are handled centrally at OUP or by outside vendors, and are outside of the control of our immediate OUP contacts, so your patience is appreciated.

I am requesting funds to publish 28 print copies of *Journal of Mammalogy*, Volume 106, Issues 3-6, and Volume 107, Issues 1-2. Fifteen of these are for archival libraries; 13 are for life members who wished to continue receiving print copies. Likewise, I am requesting funds to publish 26 print copies of the five issues of *Mammalian Species*, Volume 55, Accounts 1036-1040. Twenty-four of these will be sent to archival libraries, and two will be available for purchase. I request \$2000 for distribution and mailing of print copies of our journals.

(5) Publication Statistics. Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy (JM)* between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Composition of recent issues of *JM*:

Issue	Feature Articles	Special Features / Obituaries / Perspectives / In Memoriam / Society Content / From the Editor / Commentaries / Book Reviews / Corrections	Total Pages
105.3	19	3	245
105.4	17	5	255
105.5	22	2	266
105.6	22	4	272
106.1	20	2	264
106.2	21	4	281
Total	121	20	1583

We published 1,583 total pages this year, an average of 264 pages per issue. The publication target for *JM* historically has been approximately ~2,000 pages per year. Given that we now are

caught up on the backlog of manuscripts from 2020-2022, meeting this target will require a slight uptick in the number of manuscripts being submitted (and accepted) to *JM*.

***JM* handling and production times (Feature articles only in 105.3-106.2; n = 121):**

Issue	Avg Submission to Acceptance (days)	Acceptance to Online Publication (days)	Total Time to Online Publication (days)
105.3	343	57	400
105.4	384	54	438
105.5	319	56	376
105.6	341	49	390
106.1	337	62	399
106.2	222	46	268
AVG	324	54	378
2023-24 (n = 109)	353	67	420

While they continue to be slower than desired, our handling and production times have improved for all metrics. In November 2024, we moved beyond the backlog created by the virus pandemic.

I hope that the 2025-2026 year will see the average time from submission to acceptance continue to narrow. From 2024, my stated goal was to reduce the average time from submission to acceptance from 353 days (i.e., nearly a year) to 240 days (i.e., eight months) by 2026. I do not know if this remains a realistic goal, as the primary source of lags—time taken by authors to address reviewer comments, and challenges with finding suitable reviewers—is largely out of our control. But we will continue to do the things that are within our power to reduce handling and production times.

I am encouraged, however, that our “Total Time to Online Publication” for the final issue above (Issue 106.2) is significantly lower than those that proceed it. I believe this reflects that we have turned a corner now that the backlog has been eliminated, and I deeply appreciate the work of our AE’s, Burton, and especially Brett here. We will do our best to keep it up!

I am very satisfied with our “Time to First Decision”—the number of days elapsed between when the requested number of reviewers agree to review, and the AE recommends a decision to the EIC. This has reduced from 51 days in 2023-2024 to 39 days in 2024-2025. This reflects that our AEs are efficient at making recommendations to the EIC once external reviews are secured.

Geographic distribution of corresponding authors of all manuscripts accepted between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025:

Location	Corresponding Author (%)
U.S.	84
Canada	7

Latin America	22
Europe	13
Asia	10
Oceania	2
Africa	3

JM corresponding authors of published manuscripts came from 25 countries on all continents except Antarctica, although most authors (65%) were from the U.S. or Canada. Represented countries, besides the U.S. and Canada: Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru); Europe (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom); Oceania (Australia); Asia (China, Iran, Japan, Phillipines, Russian Federation); Africa (Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania).

JM continues to receive many manuscripts from authors outside the U.S. and Canada, especially Latin America. However, rejection rates tend to be higher for manuscripts with international corresponding authors (65%) than for those from the U.S. and Canada (26%). Authors whose primary language is not English are encouraged to take advantage of ASM’s Buddy System to improve the presentation of their work so that it can be evaluated on its scientific merits.

Manuscripts (*JM* Feature articles only) submitted, accepted, and rejected between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, including comparable data for three preceding years:

Category	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Number of manuscripts accepted/ provisionally accepted (a)	142	127	94	133
Number of manuscripts rejected (r)	93	86	61	83
Rejection rate [r/(a+r)] %	40	40	39	38
Total Final Decisions (a + r)	235	213	155	216

Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, including comparable data for 3 preceding years:

Statistic	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Total number of accounts published	5	11	11	13
Accounts in proof	1	0	2	3
Accounts with Editor	10 ^a	14	11	7 ^a
Total number of accounts with Associate Editors	3	2	5	8
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors	6	5	8	10
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors	10 ^b	15	11	16
Total number of accounts in preparation (not submitted)	83 ^c	103	99	128

^a 6 inactive (2006-2012)

^b does not include 3 updates to published accounts

^c 6 are updates to published accounts; 16 of the 83 are overdue

For *JM*, I am attempting to reduce our average submission to acceptance times through two continuing efforts.

First, I have encouraged our ME and our AEs to desk reject any manuscript for which the writing would take in excess of three hours to edit. Once a manuscript is received by the EIC with an “AE recommends acceptance” decision, the EIC feels compelled to work through it with edits. In cases where poorly written manuscripts are recommended by AEs for acceptance, this will require more than three hours of the EIC’s time, leading to delays in processing other manuscripts at the same stage of review. For foreign language authors, we encourage resubmission through the ASM Buddy System, which is in the process of being automated through ScholarOne. Brett, Burton, and I have been working with our OUP publication team to improve efficiency and usage rate of the Buddy System; we hope that this resource will therefore be used more frequently. For manuscripts in which English is the first language of the first or senior (last) author, I have encouraged our EIC, our ME, and our AEs to desk reject.

Second, I have advised our AEs to avoid more than three requests for revisions. Relatedly, the EIC inherited a backlog of 70 manuscripts in 2021 that is now down to 0. Consequently, and along with the aforementioned effort, I believe (and hope) that our average submission to acceptance will decline. My (again, perhaps unrealistic) goal is to reduce average time to revision to eight or fewer months within the next year.

(5) Consolidation of *Journal of Mammalogy* Back Matter. Given the transition of *JM* to online-only, several changes have been made to *JM* back matter. First, *JM* obituaries are freely available on the journal webpage in downloadable pdf format. The EIC will work with the ASM

historians and the ASM Publications Director to assess whether a recently deceased member might be recognized through an obituary. Any ASM member may volunteer to write an obituary for a deceased ASM member.

(6) Exploration of *Mammalian Species* as Living Documents. In 2024, an *Ad Hoc* Digital Publications Committee was formed to investigate how best to transition *MS* to a format of real-time updatable species accounts for free and open distribution online. This charge was made to advance the ASM's leadership in digital scholarship about global mammals. *MS* accounts were the immediate target, but with the recognition that by incentivizing efforts to update species accounts the ASM would also be innovating beyond current academic credit models that only "count" publications once.

Two key needs to accomplish these goals have been initially identified: (i) how does the current OUP contract relate to the ability of the ASM to either wholly re-serve or edit existing *MS* accounts? And (ii) how might current abilities for coining DOIs via platforms such as Zenodo enable the ASM to establish a platform for formal "nano-" or "micro-publications" on mammal natural history and biodiversity?

Nate Upham has led the *Ad Hoc* committee, and has initiated conversations with three publishing companies capable of hosting digital and updatable scholarship. Ballpark estimates for set-up are ~\$8K, with subsequent articles at ~\$500. Discussions with these companies is ongoing.

(7) Accomplishments:

(i) We have several ongoing/accepted pieces in the new "Perspective" category of *JM*. Along with the EIC, I have approached several senior and eminent mammalogists about the potential of writing invited pieces as "Perspectives" articles for *JM*, largely as synthetic retrospectives on their topics of expertise. We have had five mammalogists—three of whom are senior awardees at this year's meeting—commit to this. If you are interested in such an opportunity, please contact me or the EIC. We anticipate this manuscript category becoming a well-populated section of *JM*.

(ii) Last year, we began soliciting manuscripts from student award (ASM fellowship, Shadle fellowship, and honoraria) winners. Students were encouraged to submit any of their dissertation or thesis chapters as manuscripts to *JM*, in exchange for fast-tracking and defrayed Open Access expenses. We plan to continue this offer for current and future awardees.

(iii) In April 2025, a *JM* paper led by A. Nayelli Rivera-Villanueva, a PhD student at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, was honored with a BioOne Ambassador Award, with only five early-career awardees each year, for the article "Activity patterns of the nectar-feeding bat *Leptonycteris yerbabuena* on the Baja California Peninsula, Mexico". This award is granted in recognition of excellence by early career researchers; the author was nominated by *ME* Burton Lim. We will have a poster highlighting this award as an example of outstanding scholarship published in *JM* at the ASM table during the meeting.

(iv) We have four Special Features in various stages of submission and publication to *JM*. We expect these to be particularly high-profile additions to *JM*. Two of these are nearly complete and we expect them to be published in a 2025 issue.

(v) *JM* has an h-index of 139 (i.e., 139 *JM* articles have been cited at least 139 times), which puts it in the top 5% of all scientific journals.

Action Items:

I request the following changes to the PAB budget relative to 2025:

(1) \$4000 in funding for Hardship Publication Grants. Note that our applications to this fund were below \$2000 in 2024; I want to ensure that this remains well-funded if it is needed.

(2) An increase in funds for printing and distributing archive copies of *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species* from \$770 to \$2000.

(3) Editor stipends and honoraria are the same as in approved 2025 budget. Additionally, I request that the Board of Directors continues to offer to defray registration for AEs of *JM* and *MS*, the special features editor of *JM*, and the AE for language coordination. The maximum cost of doing so would be \$18,000. However, and in reality, less than 33% of our AEs attend the annual meeting, so that actual costs are unlikely to exceed \$6000. For this year's meeting, 11 AEs elected to have their registration defrayed by the ASM, totaling \$5225. This donation is very much appreciated by AEs, and it demonstrates that the ASM likewise appreciates them.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Goheen, ASM Publications Director

(jgoheen@iastate.edu; asmpubs@gmail.com)