

EDITORIAL

Is This Truly An International Journal?

21 Although the Journal includes papers on species and habitats occurring in different countries and on different continents, and authors are from various places, we question whether or not it is truly an international journal. Our reasoning here is simple and straightforward. We received a fair number of submissions from across the globe. We see the same proportion of these manuscripts based on sound science and addressing appropriate topics as we see for manuscripts originating the United States. However, fewer papers from outside countries are ultimately published. Why is this so? The reason is simple. English is rarely the primary language for many foreign authors, and it is reflected in their writing. Often the writing is so rough we return the manuscripts to the authors before even sending them out for review. Note that we do not single out foreign authors as we return shoddy manuscripts to U.S. authors too. Bottom line is that we simply cannot expect Associate Editors and reviewers to review manuscripts they cannot understand. We try to work with foreign authors as best we can, but we rarely have the time or person-power to provide the intensive editing these manuscripts require. The net result is that we often miss opportunities to publish good science just because of a language barrier.

Clearly, the Society and Journal must address this situation. We find it intolerable that we effectively reject so many manuscripts out of hand. We see two possible options. One is to enlist a cadre of volunteers who can work closely with foreign authors to bring writing to acceptable standards. The other is for the Society to hire an on-call editor whose sole responsibility is to work with these writers. In our opinion, this is important enough to pay for rather than rely on volunteers to do it. Only through a concerted effort and commitment to publish more foreign papers will this Journal truly become an international journal.

In This Issue

A highlight of this issue is a special section on the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) in southern North America. This section was assembled by Len Ruggiero with Roger Powell's service as an Associate Editor. The 8 papers included provide new information on current and historical distribution, habitat relations at multiple spatial scales, and interactions with humans. Collectively, these papers represent major strides in

increasing our knowledge of wolverine ecology and population dynamics in North America, and they provide a stronger empirical basis for wolverine management. Also included in this issue are papers that address road-wildlife interactions, continue the debate on model selection approaches to data analysis, and report on a wide range of taxa ranging from duck to hawks, turtles to alligators, and red squirrels to bison. We are very pleased to include a Student Voices paper in this issue. This paper advocates broad statistics curricula to prepare university students to understand, appreciate, and choose among the variety of analytical approaches available. This makes perfect sense to us; we hope it does to you too.

New Editor-In-Chief

We are pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Michael Chamberlain as the new editor of the Journal. He will have assumed duties well before you receive this issue and brings new expertise and perspective to the EIC position. We leave with the comfort of knowing the Journal is in good hands. We also leave the new EIC with a clean slate; that is, we are not leaving him with a backlog of manuscripts.

Thanks

As always, we would be remiss without recognizing the fine work done by our Associate Editors. They are provided a pittance of an honorarium and basically work for free. They spend dozens of hours working on manuscripts, and working with authors, reviewers, and us to first evaluate the suitability of manuscripts and then help us get manuscripts in shape for publication. They are a great group of people providing a great service to science and fulfilling a critical need of this Journal.

Indeed, publication of the Journal would be impossible without the capable assistance of the Journal's staff. Carly Johnson leads a staff that includes Anna Knipps, Dawn Hanseder, Kathryn Socie, and Angela Hallock. At this point, we have pretty much made the transition to a combined journal. We could not have done it without the staff's assistance.

-William M. Block
Co-Editor-in-Chief