

Small Carnivore Conservation continues

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Dear readers,

I am sure you are all aware, Harry Van Rompaey, former Editor-in-Chief of *Small Carnivore Conservation* (SCC), recently passed away (see obituary, page 2). Harry initiated this journal, formerly titled *Mustelid and Viverrid Conservation*, almost 20 years ago and ensured its continued success throughout this period. Harry's tireless efforts not only to keep SCC alive, but his overall ambitions to aid the conservation of small carnivores worldwide, should not be taken lightly. As Roland Wirth had written in the previous issue of SCC "It won't be easy for anyone to step into your shoes, Harry!" I think this could not have been more appropriately stated. On behalf of the editorial staff of SCC, I dedicate this issue in the memory of Harry Van Rompaey.

In my, until now, impartial opinion, SCC is one of the best journals published of any specialist group within the IUCN/Species Survival Commission. Undoubtedly, this recent transition in oversight of SCC will bring about both constancy and change. Constancy in that our intent is to maintain SCC as a leading journal in the dissemination of sound scientific and conservation-related information on Ailuridae, Herpestidae, Mustelidae, Procyonidae and Viverridae. Change in that we envision growth of SCC in both geographic coverage and breadth of topics published.

As you may have noticed from reviewing the inside front cover, this issue of SCC also reflects a number of changes in the editorial staff. To start with, I would like to briefly introduce my-

self to each of you. I am presently employed as a wildlife biologist with the US National Park Service. Although I have worked with numerous wildlife species and continue to do so, my greatest interest and satisfaction has always been while studying carnivores, particularly small carnivores. My professional work with small carnivores began in the late 1980s and has revolved primarily around American Martens, Fishers, and Northern Raccoons, in addition to some work with Short-tailed Weasels, Long-tailed Weasels, Striped Skunks, and American Badgers. My current small carnivore research programme emphasises American Martens and Fishers.

I personally want to thank each of the previous members of the Editorial Board for their respective contributions to SCC over the years. I particularly would like to acknowledge the continued efforts of William Duckworth, who has ensured that publication of SCC continued during this difficult transition. Will has kindly agreed to continue as Associate Editor for SCC for which I am grateful. I also would like to acknowledge each new or continuing member of the current Editorial Board: Alexei Abramov, Philippe Gaubert, Angela Glatston, Frank Hawkins, Barney Long, Divya Mudappa, Scott Robertson, Jan Schipper, and Roland Wirth. These individuals have graciously offered their time, expertise and enthusiasm to the continuation of SCC. I look forward to working with each of you as well as all other members of the Small Carnivore Specialist Group (SCSG) to ensure the long-term success of this journal.

Another recent change is that we have developed information for authors wishing to contribute manuscripts to SCC. A summarised version of this can be found on the inside back cover of this issue. Complete guidelines can be obtained by emailing any member of the editorial staff. We will ultimately include an electronic version of these guidelines on the SCSG website. For questions about manuscripts not addressed in these guidelines, please contact me or William Duckworth.

The scope of SCC was well described in the October 2004 Editorial (Number 31). Attributes of SCC mentioned in this previous editorial I would like to reiterate are that the journal is: 1) to be complimentary to the many international mammalogical and conservation journals, 2) to provide rapid publication of all manuscripts, particularly 'breaking news' items in which findings are likely to be relevant years later, 3) to provide syntheses of current knowledge on the status and distribution of many of the small carnivores, and 4) to further enhance reader's awareness of other small carnivore research through compilation of recent literature and reviews of published books or monographs.

Although I still have much to learn regarding numerous aspects of SCC, as well as many of the species we work with, I am excited and pleased to have this opportunity to serve as the Editor-in-Chief. My goal is to maintain the same high-quality content this journal has enjoyed in past issues. With the enthusiasm, efforts, and support provided by the present editorial staff, I am confident of the future success of SCC.

JERROLD L. BELANT

Editor-in-Chief, Small Carnivore Conservation