

## EDITORIAL

The rate of submission to *The Auk*, of both regular articles and short communications, remains healthy. Concurrently, the quality of manuscripts, as assessed by the editorial review process, is excellent. This predicament, actually an embarrassment of riches, means that I must be highly selective in accepting manuscripts. The immediate result is reflected in the quality of the journal. The obverse is in the authors' disappointment. Many publishable papers are rejected. Rejection does not mean this work is inadequate, only that a complex decision was made that considers my desire for a balance of content, page limits, perceived readers' interest, and other subtle factors.

In comparison with other specialized journals in biology, we may be proud of both our science and ourselves. The breadth of subject matter in ornithology is impressive, as is the quality of the experimental design, data analysis, and subsequent discussion of the material. Authors are unafraid to confront controversial issues, which often makes for interesting reading. We have included papers from areas not traditionally thought of as primarily ornithological and occasionally have reported a "first." This reflects the innovation in our science and the inventiveness of the authors.

Another important aspect of the entire effort is the contributions of reviewers, the associate editors, and the style editor. Each contributes to the process of manuscript selection and the production of the journal in many ways. Equally important is the feedback provided by authors and readers. This is often directed primarily toward me and not only reminds me, rather forcefully at times, of my fallibility, but provides alternative viewpoints on many topics. Their gentle care is appreciated. Criticism is an important element of our constant striving toward improvement. My goal is to make the journal as creative, clear, and relevant as possible. Our hope is to accomplish this with style, without undue delay, and in as personal a framework as possible.

I appreciate being selected editor. I hope my strengths and interests will benefit the journal and that the journal will benefit the Union. We are truly fortunate to work in an area of biology of such broad and almost endless possibilities. I am faced continually with judgments on content and policy. In a very real sense I act in behalf of your trust. The partnership among author, editor, and reader is delicate and one I intend to nurture to its full potential.—  
A.H.B.