issues in 2005. The goal is to have the hard copy published 12-16 weeks after acceptance. The online publishing time is 9-10 weeks after acceptance, with a goal of 6 weeks. An article could be published 4 months after submission is everything goes well. DW thanked the Press for their good work in the collaboration.

Gunilla Rosenqvist retired as Editor last fall. Naomi Pierce will begin as Editor in September. DW thanked both for their work and willingness.

3. Ken Otter (KO) gave the Newsletter Editor’s report.

The Newsletter’s main functions, in addition to carrying Society news, are to publish book reviews, conference and workshop reports and commentaries. It should appear twice a year, with the June and December issues of the journal. The target is to have 4-5 book reviews, 1-2 commentaries and 1-2 conference/workshop reviews per issue. KO encouraged members to register their interests so he can build a database of reviewers. Past Newsletters are available in an on-line archive at the newsletter website.

4. Walt Koenig gave the Treasurer’s report.

The Society’s finances are in good shape, with around $130,000 in the bank. The journal is now making a profit, from which the Society receives around $20,000 per year. Members are encouraged to make suggestions to the Executive on how to spend the money.

5. Ethodata.

JB reported on this new project to set a standard for behavioral data (see announcement on page 5-6). Please consult the website and give feedback to JB. (http://ethodata,comm.nsdl.org)

6. Future meetings.

JB reported that the 2006 meeting cannot be held at Cornell and so the dates have been swapped with Tours, originally planned for 2008. Marc Théry is leading the organizing committee for Tours 2006. Preparations are well underway and a leaflet was distributed at the meeting. The Society Executive is very impressed with the state of preparation and with the meeting site.

7. There was no other business.

Paul Ward
ISBE secretary

Reports from the Editor-in-Chief, Behavioral Ecology

Outgoing Editor-in-Chief’s Report: The State of Behavioral Ecology

The biennial meetings provide an opportunity to report to the membership of ISBE information about how Behavioral Ecology, the society’s journal, is faring. The 2004 meeting in Jyväskylä was the first chance the editors have had to assess two major changes associated with the journal; the switch to the web based submission system and the change in editorial structure (from offices in both Europe and North America to the Editor-in-Chief model). Discussions before and during the meeting indicate that from nearly everyone’s perspective, the changes made have been good ones and the journal is very healthy.

Oxford University Press, the publisher of BE, is quite pleased with the journal. Cathy Kennedy, Oxford’s representative, reported that institutional subscriptions have continued to rise, in opposition to the trend for most other journals. The citation rankings are steady at about 2.4-2.5, putting BE ahead of Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology and on even footing over the past two years with Animal Behaviour. Since 2002 when the journal earned back the initial start-up cost, it has also been making money, to the benefit of both Oxford Press and ISBE.

The health of the journal is also evident to the editors. In 2003, the journal received 363 submitted papers, an increase of approximately 25 over the previous year. At the time of the meeting, nearly 200 submissions had been received, and we are projecting handling about 385 papers this year. This load has significant effects on the competitiveness for acceptance; so far, we have accepted 50 of the papers submitted in 2003 (14%). A sizeable number of papers are still in revision and may be accepted, but we anticipate a final acceptance rate for 2003
submissions of less than 30%.

The interest in publishing in BE has created some growing pains for the journal. Each editor is handling over 50 MSs a year, and many of these are being evaluated several times. Despite that, the web system has streamlined our work load and dramatically improved decision times. For example, in 2001-2002 we estimated the time from authors mailing their MS to when they received their first decision averaged over 3 months. In 2003 with the web system, we averaged 75 days to first decision. So far this year, the turnaround has averaged 54 days, although that will likely increase some as the decisions that are taking more time are finally made.

A second problem we have wrestled with is the time from acceptance to publication. In early 2003, accepted papers were taking over a year to be published. We have increased the size of the journal (300 pages will be added in issues 1 and 2 in Volume 16) and improved processing. Currently the time from acceptance to print is about 35 weeks. In addition, we have added online publishing of papers as soon as corrected proofs are returned. Over 55 papers are currently available ahead of print on the journal’s web site and they are being posted there about 9 weeks after final acceptance. Our target, hopefully to be achieved in 2005, is to publish accepted papers online within 6 weeks of acceptance and in print about 16 weeks after acceptance. This means that if an author produces an exceptionally well constructed paper, it could appear online as soon as 4 months after submission and in print within 6 months.

All this has taken hard work by many people. First, the production office of OUP deserves many thanks for reorganizing and greatly improving the flow of papers into the journal. Second, many of you have helped by reviewing papers for us. We requested reviews from 599 reviewers in 2003, and most returned those reviews in a timely fashion. Finally, the 7 editors for the journal have worked extremely hard. Special thanks go to Gunilla Rosenqvist who retired as editor in fall of 2003 after serving more than the normal term. Goran Arnaqvist replaced her in January of 2004. My term as Editor-in-Chief ended at the Jyväskylä meeting and Andrew Bourke will take on that role for the next 2 years. Naomi Pierce will take my place as regular editor starting 1 Sept. 2004, and we will soon be recruiting a new editor to help with the increased load of MSs.

Behavioral Ecology continues to be an excellent publication of which the ISBE and Oxford Press can be proud. Let’s hope you create some new challenges for the editorial team by submitting all your best stuff there!

David F. Westneat
Outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Behavioral Ecology

Incoming Editor-in-Chief’s Report: Directions for Behavioral Ecology

Dave Westneat has described very clearly the recent changes to the way Behavioral Ecology operates, so there is no need for me to repeat these here. Over the next two years, more changes will follow. The Editors and I plan to implement these in consultation with the ISBE executive. Since our plans are not yet finalized, I cannot be specific here, but we plan a series of incremental changes, all with the aim of continuing to improve the journal. We also aim to communicate our decisions and thinking in future issues of this newsletter, so please watch this space. Let me add a few other points here. First, I would like to remind you that Behavioral Ecology takes review articles. I encourage you to submit your reviews to us, especially if they involve new ideas, or new ways of synthesizing familiar data. Second, the journal has a new Editorial Assistant, Jenny Fulford. Jenny will be working with me, and will be the main point of contact for many authors. Please join me in welcoming her to her post. Finally, I would like to record my grateful thanks to Dave, who, as Editor-in-Chief for the past two years (and as an Editor before then), has rendered excellent service to the journal and to ISBE and leaves his editorial role with the journal in great shape.

Andrew Bourke
Editor-in-Chief, Behavioral Ecology