Journal of Animal Ecology Editor Vacancy

Journal of Animal Ecology publishes the best original research on all aspects of animal ecology, ranging from the molecular to the ecosystem level. These may be field, laboratory and theoretical studies utilising terrestrial, freshwater or marine systems. The journal is currently publishing its 83rd volume and has an Impact Factor of 4.841, placing it first in the ISI Zoology list and 20th in Ecology.

We are seeking an Editor to strengthen and complement the senior editor team and to continue raising the Journal's profile worldwide. The candidate would join a team of four Editors who are supported by an international board of 60 Associate Editors and dedicated editorial office personnel. The Editors work together to determine journal strategy and to increase the reputation and quality of the Journal, in addition to making decisions on around 900 manuscripts submitted each year. Further details about the Journal and its current editorial team can be found at www.journalofanimalecology.org.

We are interested in applicants from all fields of animal ecology; however we particularly encourage those with expertise in community and/or ecosystems ecology. Applications from candidates who would broaden the diversity among the Editorial Board are particularly welcomed.

Editors must be highly motivated, decisive, outstanding communicators and must act with probity. They must have an excellent understanding of their own field of ecology, as well as the wider discipline; have experience of peer-review and the editing processes; a commitment to maintaining the high editorial standards of the Journal; and an interest in ongoing developments within academic publishing.

Journal of Animal Ecology is one of five successful journals published by the British Ecological Society (BES). The Society, which has a worldwide membership of over 5,000, was established in 1913 and its vision is to advance ecology and make it count.

The post of Editor is part-time, on a three-year contract (current salary c. £5,700 per annum) and located at the holder’s host university or organisation. Some additional support is available to facilitate attendance at meetings with other BES Editors and to act as ambassadors for the Journal at relevant conferences.

Applicants should be available to start in May 2014. Key responsibilities are listed below and the post can be discussed further with the Journal’s Executive Editor, Professor Ken Wilson (ken.wilson@lancaster.ac.uk).
Purpose of role: Working with other members of the Journal Team to ensure that the Journal publishes top-quality, timely material and to plan and implement strategies that will enhance its profile and expand its readership.

Selection criteria:
- Extensive publication history
- In depth subject knowledge but also broad understanding of animal ecology, complementary to that of the existing editors
- Significant experience of reviewing across a range of ecology journals and at least some experience of other editorial work
- Ability to work independently and to prioritise from a range of active projects
- Ability to form, and operate in, scientific networks, including through the use of social media
- Ability to think strategically and act decisively
- Commitment to the post and to the goals of the BES

Key responsibilities:
- Identify key subject areas on which the Journal should focus (whether already established or emerging/advancing rapidly)
- Solicit submission of high-quality manuscripts in all areas relevant to the Journal
- Drive the strategic direction of the Journal by pre-screening submitted manuscripts for suitability, selecting handling editors and reviewers and making decisions based on their reports
- Gather opinions from fellow ecologists on the strengths and weaknesses of the Journal: use this information to drive changes in procedure, to develop initiatives and/or to feed into general discussions
- Identify and recruit new Associate Editors
- Assist editorial team to identify papers for further promotion via video, podcasting and the media
- Promote the Journal and the BES when attending conferences
- Contribute to the Journal’s development and join in discussions with those involved with other BES journals
- Act as handling editor for a limited number of manuscripts and cover for the Executive Editor as needed
- Active engagement with social media tools in order to help promote the Journal

Applications: please send your CV, plus a letter stating how your skills match the stated selection criteria and how you would develop the journal in the next three years to Liz Baker, Deputy Head of Publications (liz@britishecologicalsociety.org).

Closing date: Wednesday 12 March 2014 (noon GMT).
Interviews will take place on Friday 4 April, in person at Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU or by phone depending on location.