

EDITORIAL

CHANGES IN *ORNITOLOGIA NEOTROPICAL*: MOVING WITH THE TIMES

From 2016 onwards, *Ornitología Neotropical* will undergo a series of changes aimed at modernising the appearance, availability, and handling of the journal.

Switching to online-only. The most important change will be the transition from a print journal with limited online availability to an online-only journal. Scientific literature today is accessed largely through the computer or tablet. This is especially true for scientific papers, which now are hardly ever printed on paper. Most scientific journals are available online, and some of them do not offer printed versions anymore. In this regard the switch at *Ornitología Neotropical* is long overdue. It is important to note that switching to being online-only does not affect indexing by databases (i.e., Thomson Reuters, etc.).

Eschewing printing will reduce costs, and these savings can be devoted elsewhere, for example to help students to attend the Neotropical Ornithological Congress or to provide enhanced research grants (François Vuilleumier Fund). At the same time, this process will address one of the main concerns of authors and readers, namely the accessibility of content. Authors will benefit because their papers will be available online as soon as they are ready, without the need to wait for the issue to be filled and printed (as a matter of fact volumes will not be split in issues after volume 26). Subscribers will be able to access all new content immediately, either to read online or download as pdfs. Similarly, institutions with a subscription will allow access to all members through their IP addresses. After two years, all content will become freely available online also to non-subscribers. At the end of each year, all papers published will be put together as a single volume, and a limited number will be printed for archival purposes and for those subscribers who want a paper copy (at their own costs). Finally, I would like to mention that all 'old' contents of *Ornitología Neotropical*, from the first volume until volume 25 (2014), are freely accessible and searchable at SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archive; <https://sora.unm.edu/>).

Changes to journal format. Publishing online will also come with changes to the format of the journal, and we will be starting in 2016 with a complete new look (stay tuned to that). The aim is to make the appearance more attractive and user-friendly with fonts ('farewell' to Garamond) that are easier to read on screen. We hope, at the same time, to make changes to the formatting of manuscripts in order to simplify the process of getting the article into shape. The use of colour figures will be encouraged, including good quality photos depicting study species, sites, habitats, and other interesting aspects of the work. The inclusion of online supplementary material will also be possible and welcome. This will allow including other types of media, such as sound files or videos, as well as extensive appendices with data. All articles published from 2016 on (starting with volume 27) – also short communications – will include abstracts in two languages. Abstracts will be freely available online for subscribers and non-subscribers, and will enhance the visibility of the work published. Very often the abstract is the only part of a paper that gets read and informs the reader whether the paper is worth reading (and potentially citing) or not.

Online submission system. All submissions from now on will have to be sent through the website: <http://journals.sfu.ca/ornneo/index.php/ornneo/index>. Submissions via e-mail will no longer

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be accepted. This system centralises all submissions, keeping a record of all steps of the process from submission to publication. It allows editors and authors to keep track and monitor the status of manuscripts directly. Hopefully, this will accelerate and simplify manuscript handling. We have started using the system already and so far the initial results are promising. We thank all early-adopting authors for their feedback and patience while we adjust the process!

We hope that these changes will make the journal more attractive to authors and readers while at the same time streamline the editorial process.

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