

22 November 2023

Dear Dr. Devictor:

We are excited to submit the attached manuscript, titled “*Multi-seasonal species distribution models better facilitate habitat conservation for a migratory bird*” to Biological Conservation. This manuscript expands the literature on transferability of species distribution models to include cross-seasonal transferability, or transferability of model predictions between seasons of an animal’s full annual cycle. In situations where cross-seasonal transferability is low, we suggest a method for incorporating the output of several seasonal distribution models into a single prioritization tool using a spatial decision support system. During a study of American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) in Pennsylvania, USA, we demonstrate the utility of this approach for accommodating data from multiple sources and prioritizing management areas based on local priorities for seasonal management. We believe that this approach is ideal for birds and other migratory taxa for which habitat requirements may differ throughout the year.

This manuscript is submitted as an original work of the listed authors, all of whom consent to its submission to Biological Conservation. The manuscript is not currently published or under consideration for publication in any other journal. Funding for this work was provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the 42 state, university, and non-profit collaborators in the Eastern Woodcock Migration Research Cooperative (full list available at [www.woodcockmigration.org](http://www.woodcockmigration.org)), and the authors anticipate no financial benefit from this article’s publication. All capture and handling of American Woodcock was conducted with methods approved by the University of Maine Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Protocol # A2020-07-01).

We believe that this manuscripts’ focus on spatial prioritization of management areas using distribution models would make it well suited to the audience of Biological Conservation. If there are any questions regarding the submission, please contact me at (703) 888-8284 or at [liamaberigan@gmail.com](mailto:liamaberigan@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Liam A. Berigan*

Liam Berigan