

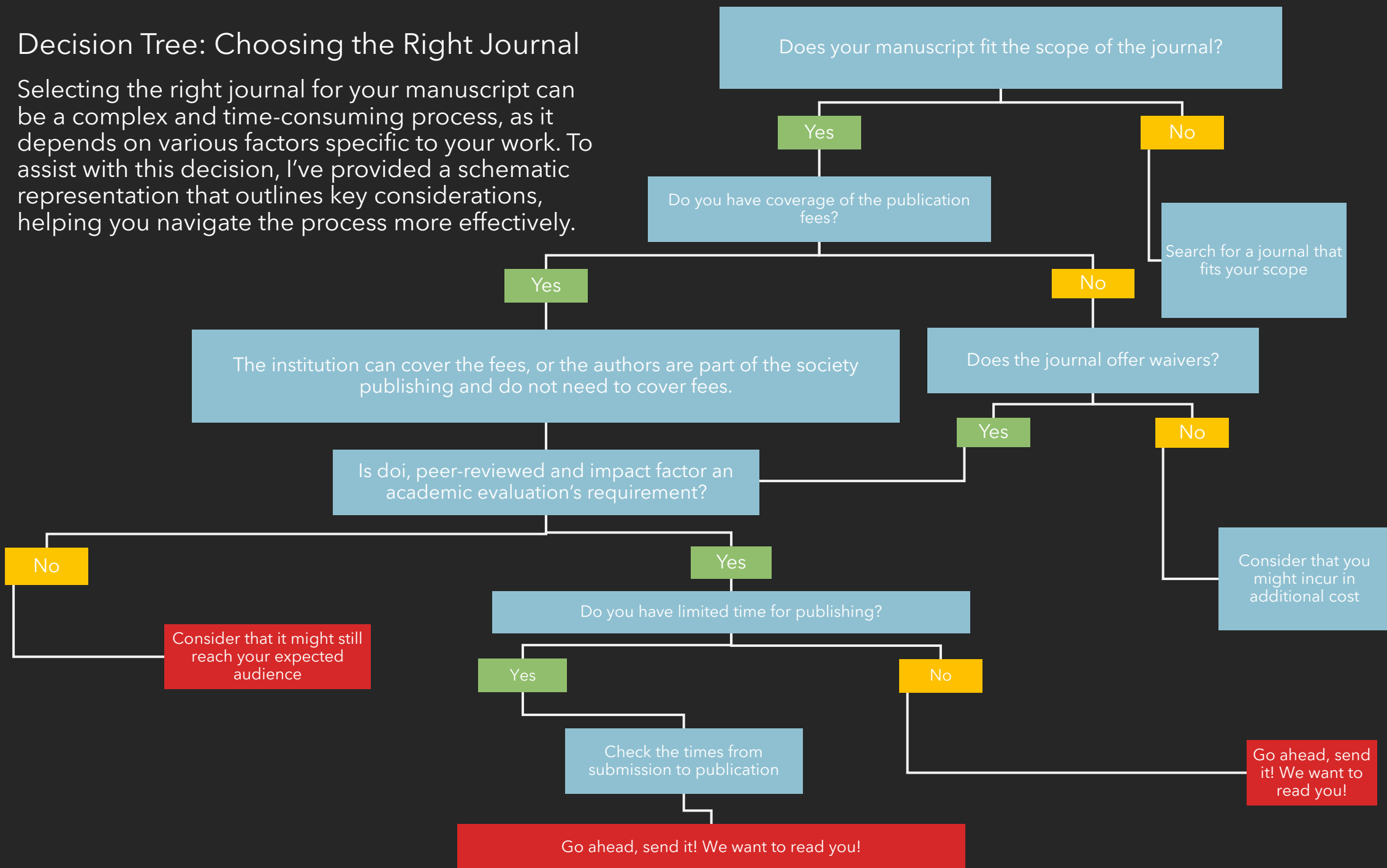


# Journals

A guide from by an ornithologist to  
ornithologists

# Decision Tree: Choosing the Right Journal

Selecting the right journal for your manuscript can be a complex and time-consuming process, as it depends on various factors specific to your work. To assist with this decision, I've provided a schematic representation that outlines key considerations, helping you navigate the process more effectively.



# 1. Scope of the journal

Limit your search to journals that publish research on your topics of interest, such as conservation, ecology, and ornithology.

Additionally, you may consult your list of references to identify which journals have consistently published on these subjects.

Note that some journals, despite having a history of publishing on certain topics, may have shifted their focus over time and may no longer align with their current areas of interest.

The *Journal of Ornithology* publishes innovative research in ornithological science, with special emphasis on the behaviour, ecology, evolution and conservation of birds.

- Official publication of the German Ornithologists' Society, focused on all aspects of ornithology.
- Provides a platform for original papers, reviews, short notes, technical notes, and commentaries.
- Accepts Original papers, Reviews, Short Notes, Technical Notes and Commentaries.
- Holds the distinction of being the oldest existing ornithological journal worldwide (since 1853).

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Franz Bairlein



Journal Impact Factor  
1.3 (2023)



Submission to first decision (median)  
6 days



5-year Journal Impact Factor  
1.5 (2023)



Downloads  
432,222 (2024)

## 2. Open access

Some journals use a hybrid model, while others are fully open access. The primary advantage of open access (OA) is that it allows everyone to access your publication without encountering paywalls, ensuring wider visibility and accessibility of your research.

In the case of open access journals, authors are required to cover the publication fees. These fees can vary significantly, with some journals, such as those published by Springer, charging around €3,000, while others, like Nature, can charge up to €10,000.

Finding an appropriate journal for publication can be challenging if you lack the necessary funding to cover these costs.

The current APC for *Journal of Ornithology* is £2590.00 GBP / \$3990.00 USD /  
€2990.00 EUR

## 2. Open access

If you are in Germany, for example, at [Kiel University](#), this institution is part of the [DEAL project](#), which covers publication fees for certain journals. To the best of my knowledge, these fees are covered using library funds.

Is your institution part of the DEAL project? You can check the lists provided by [Wiley](#) or [Elsevier](#).

If you are from countries in Latin America (like myself), some journals offer waivers or discounts on publication fees. It is advisable to check with [Wiley](#).

### **Waivers and Discounts**

Wiley's partnership with [Research4Life](#) enables research from institutions in low- and middle-income countries and locations to be published open access by providing automatic waivers and discounts on Article Publication Charges (APCs). The full list of countries and locations is below.

If you published after leaving the University, but your work was made during your stay you might still be [eligible](#). After submitting the paper, the university might contact you just to make sure your work was made while affiliated.

## 2. Open access

Here is a list of the journals covered by the project DEAL:

- [Wiley](#)
- [Elsevier](#)
- [Springer](#) Nature

The provided links downloads an Excel sheet containing the list of eligible journals.

Keep in mind that the lists are periodically updated.

# 3. Impact factor

The use of the impact factor is very debatable. It may provide an indication of the potential audience your paper could reach. As well, it might increase career prospects and academic credibility.



For some academic evaluations, publishing in high-impact journals may be a key consideration. High impact publications increase the chances of securing funding, as funders often evaluate researches based on their success in publishing in these journals.

Many journals have their impact factor listed in their webpage.

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|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | Journal Impact Factor<br>1.3 (2023)             |
|  | Submission to first decision (median)<br>6 days |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | 5-year Journal Impact Factor<br>1.5 (2023) |
|  | Downloads<br>432,222 (2024)                |

## 4. DOI and Peer-review

A DOI (digital object identifier) is a unique alphanumeric string associated to a document making it easily accessible and identifiable on the internet.

Peer-review is the process where experts from a specific field evaluate the quality of a peer's research assessing their validity and quality. Usually, two or three reviewers are assigned to a manuscript.

Some journals do not have doi, and therefore they might not be considered during academic evaluations, even if they went into peer-review.

If doi is crucial for credibility during academic evaluations, you should consider if the journals has a doi before sending your manuscript.

However, consider that journals that do not provide doi might still reach your expected audience.

**Foraging ranges of Humboldt Penguins *Spheniscus humboldti* from Tilgo Island: the critical need for protecting a unique marine habitat.**

QUISPE, R., LERMA, M., LUNA, N., PORTFLITT-TORO, M., SERRATOSA, J. & LUNA-JORQUERA, G.

2020 Volume 48 (2) Pages 205-208






# 5. Publication time

The publication frequency of a journal can significantly impact how long you'll have to wait for your paper to be published after submission.

Journals that publish less frequently, such as annually or quarterly, typically have a longer wait time from submission to acceptance and eventual publication.

Check the journal's website for details on the average time to acceptance and publication. Usually, you can find the information of [days to acceptance](#) on the journal page.

This can help you set expectations and plan accordingly, especially if you're working on a tight timeline.

| Journal metrics   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Usage |  Citation metrics  |  Speed/acceptance   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>74K</b> annual downloads/views</li></ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>0.9 (2023)</b> Impact Factor</li><li>• <b>1.3 (2023)</b> 5 year IF</li><li>• <b>2.0 (2023)</b> CiteScore (Scopus)</li><li>• <b>0.490 (2023)</b> SNIP</li><li>• <b>0.407 (2023)</b> SJR</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>54</b> days avg. from submission to first decision</li><li>• <b>80</b> days avg. from submission to first post-review decision</li><li>• <b>37</b> days avg. from acceptance to online publication</li><li>• <b>44%</b> acceptance rate</li></ul> |

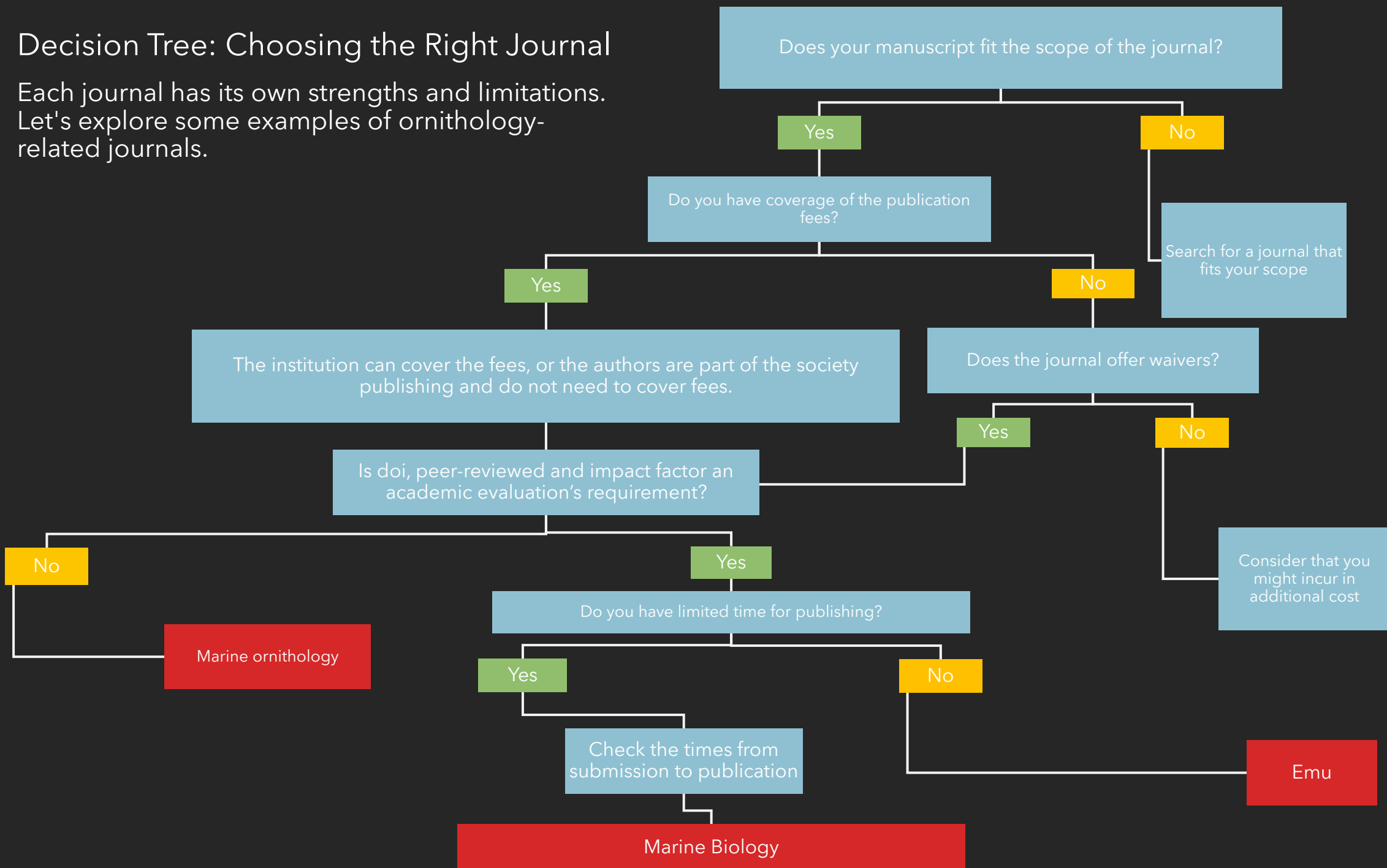
# Personal experience

1. **Scope:** Based on the topic, I have targeted journals in Ornithology, Ecotoxicology, Physiology, or Ecology.
2. **Open access:** I prefer open access when the institution covers it. If this is not possible, I have asked for waivers (particularly on Latin American studies). If this is not possible, submitting to a journal that has no publication fees is also an option – although it might be behind a paywall once published.
3. **Doi, peer-review and impact factor:** I prefer journals that offer doi. Peer-review is a must. For impact factor, most ornithological journals are very specific and therefore have a relatively low impact factor.
4. **Times:** The time for submission to acceptance varies greatly, some manuscripts have taken more than one (almost two) years to be published. Patience is key.

| Journal   | Manuscript                                   | IF   | Situation      |
|---|--|------|----------------|
| Ardea   | Brown booby                                  | 1.08 | Behind paywall |
| Waterbirds  | American oystercatcher                       | 0.86 | Behind paywall |
| Bulletin Environmental Contamination and Toxicology | Blue-footed booby: Hg                        | 1.22 | Behind paywall |
| Journal of Sea Research                             | Blue-footed booby: Zn                        | 1.72 | Behind paywall |
| Marine Biology                                      | Masked booby: ENSO, Rapa Nui                 | 2.39 | Open access    |
| Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology                 | Masked booby: Breeding stage                 | 2.38 | Open access    |
| Marine Ornithology                                  | Humboldt penguins: tracking                  | 0.89 | Accessible     |
| Journal of Comparative Physiology B                 | Blue-footed booby: Metabolites               | 2.14 | Open access    |
| Emu   | Humboldt penguins: physiology                | 1.43 | Behind paywall |
| Ecology and evolution                               | Masked and Red-footed booby: stable isotopes | 3.17 | Open access    |

# Decision Tree: Choosing the Right Journal

Each journal has its own strengths and limitations. Let's explore some examples of ornithology-related journals.



# List of journals

Below is a list of journals. The list includes the columns: Journal (including the link); Project deal (Y-covered, N- not covered); OA (Open access) fee; Scope of the journal. Please use this list as reference. Agreements are constantly changing, as well as the OA fees and the Impact factors. Please always check at the journal webpage.

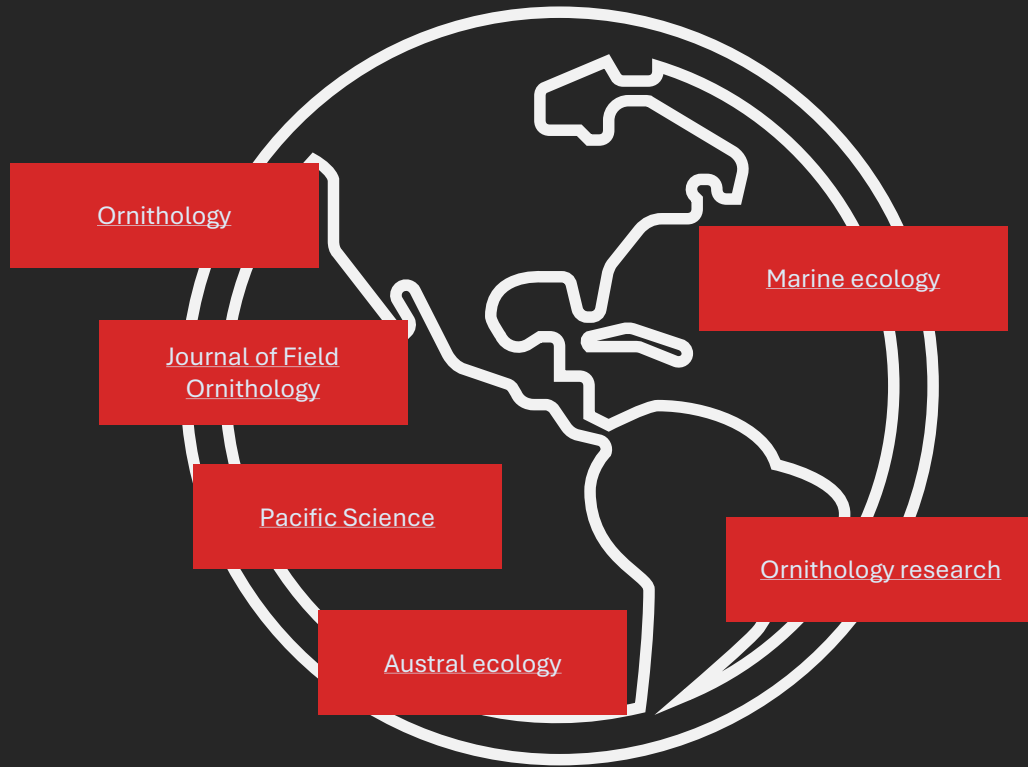
| Journal  | Project Deal                        | OA fee  | IF    | Scope and notes  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|-------|--|
| <a href="#">Journal of Field Ornithology</a>                 | N – option for waiver               | 1250 €  | 1.86  | Especially interested in the <b>Neotropics</b> and those involving participation by nonprofessional ornithologists.      |
| <a href="#">Journal of Animal Ecology</a>                    | Y – Wiley list 2025                 |         | 5.60  | Generate <b>ecological insights</b> beyond the specific study system, or address broad or pressing ecological questions  |
| <a href="#">Pacific Science</a>                              | N                                   |         | 1.80  | Multidisciplinary research on the biological and physical sciences of the <b>Pacific basin</b> , such ecology            |
| <a href="#">Ornithology</a>                                  | N <sup>1</sup>                      | 3718 \$ | 2.00  | <b>Ornithological studies</b> and advances our understanding of living or extinct bird species                           |
| <a href="#">Wilson Journal of Ornithology</a>                | N <sup>1</sup>                      | 2990 \$ | 0.40  | Behavior, physiology, population and community ecology, evolution, biogeography, taxonomy, and conservation              |
| <a href="#">Acta ornithologica</a>                           | N                                   |         | 1.05  | Covers all fields of <b>ornithology</b> .  |
| <a href="#">Ornithological applications</a>                  | N <sup>1</sup>                      | 3718 \$ | 2.60  | Scientific theory, ornithological knowledge, and methods to the <b>conservation and management of birds</b>              |
| <a href="#">Ornithologia Neotropical</a>                     | N                                   | 70 \$   | 0.29  | Ornithological research in the Neotropical region, which includes from Mexico south to Argentina and Chile               |
| <a href="#">Tropical Zoology</a>                             | N                                   |         | 0.70  | Ecology and conservation of all terrestrial and aquatic animal Phyla from <b>tropical and subtropical areas</b>          |
| <a href="#">Journal of Ornithology</a>                       | Y <sup>2</sup> – Springer list 2025 |         | 1.47  | Research in <b>ornithological science</b> , with emphasis on the behaviour, ecology, evolution and conservation of birds |
| <a href="#">Austral ecology</a>                              | Y – Wiley list 2025                 | 2780 €  | 1.71  | Fundamental and applied ecology in the <b>Southern Hemisphere</b> , such as Chile  |
| <a href="#">Marine ecology</a>                               | Y – Wiley list 2025                 | 2970 €  | 1.73  | <b>International marine biology</b> includes many species.   |
| <a href="#">Oecologia</a>                                    | Y <sup>2</sup> – Springer list 2025 | 2890 €  | 3.01  | International journal dedicated to publishing innovative <b>ecological research</b>                                      |
| <a href="#">Ornithology research</a>                         | Y <sup>2</sup> – Springer list 2025 | 2690 €  | 1.40  | Focusing on the <b>biology of birds</b> and new methodologies in the field. Brazilian society of Ornithology.            |
| <a href="#">Ecosphere</a>                                    | Y – Wiley list 2025                 | 1970 €  | 3.34  | Research relating to <b>every area of ecology</b>  |
| <a href="#">Oikos</a>  | Y – Wiley list 2025                 | 2730 €  | 4.25  | Empirical and theoretical research that spans across diverse taxa, systems, and disciplines                              |
| <a href="#">Ecology</a>                                      | Y – Wiley list 2025                 | 3310 €  | 6.43  | For ecologists, by ecologists  |
| <a href="#">Ecology letters</a>                              | Y – Wiley list 2025                 | 4400 €  | 17.60 | Broad-scope ecology consider <b>all taxa</b> , in any biome and <b>geographic area</b>                                   |
| <a href="#">Bird study</a>                                   | N                                   |         | 0.70  | Bird Study concentrates on birds that occur in the <b>Western Palearctic</b>   |
| <a href="#">Ibis</a>   | Y – Wiley list 2025                 | 3750 €  | 1.94  | <b>Ornithological science</b> , with special emphasis on the behaviour, ecology, evolution and conservation of birds     |
| <a href="#">Bird Conservation International</a>              | N <sup>2</sup>                      | 2970 €  | 1.85  | Worldwide research and action for the <b>conservation of birds and the habitats</b> upon which they depend.              |
| <a href="#">Ardeola</a>                                      | N <sup>3</sup>                      |         | 1.47  | Trabajos originales sobre todos los campos de la ornitología y noticias ornitológicas                                    |
| <a href="#">Avian Research</a>                               | N <sup>4</sup>                      |         | 1.60  | The journal was previously published under the title Chinese Birds, now covering <b>all aspects of ornithology</b>       |
| <a href="#">Movement ecology</a>                             | Y – Springer list 2025              | 2290 €  | 4.62  | Any taxa and any <b>movement</b> phenomena (e.g. foraging, dispersal and seasonal migration)                             |
| <a href="#">Journal of Avian Biology</a>                     | Y – Wiley list 2025                 |         | 2.48  | Innovative, hypothesis-driven research on the biology of birds   |
| <a href="#">Marine Ecology Progress Series</a>               | N                                   | 2500 €  | 2.82  | Worldwide forum for <b>all aspects of marine ecology</b> , fundamental and applied                                       |
| <a href="#">The Auk - Now Ornithology</a>                    | Deprecated                          |         |       | Now Ornithology  |
| <a href="#">The Condor - Now Ornithological applications</a> | Deprecated                          |         |       | Now Ornithological applications  |

<sup>1</sup>Society members can publish fee or charge; <sup>2</sup>For articles that are not published Gold Open Access, APCs (Article processing charges) do not apply; <sup>3</sup>Sin coste para los autores; <sup>4</sup>Authors do not need to pay an APC, fees are covered by sponsors.

# Geographical scope

Selecting the scope also involves considering the location of your research.

Read in the journal scope if they have geographic preferences.



# Rejection

- Do not feel discouraged if your paper gets rejected, rejection is common.

Rejection might not reflect the quality of the work but rather the journal's scope, or specific reviewers' feedback. Do not take it personally.

Check that your paper fits the scope of the journal (and if you can, see if you can identify a pattern in the research topics that the journal is currently publishing).

If the manuscript includes reviewer's comments, consider that they can really improve the manuscript and present questions not considered before.

You might need to publish to finishing your degree, keep your funding, or maintain your position. Rejection might set you back, but persistence might pay off at the end. Be careful to not fall into predatory journals.

# Keep informing yourself

- That I am not complaining here about publications fees and paywalls; doesn't mean I don't have an opinion.

It is discouraging not to be able to publish because of the fee; or not being able to read your own paper afterwards because is behind a paywall.

Interesting links:

- [The cost of publishing](#)
- [It is an industry like no other, with profit margins to rival Google](#)
- [A business model that has become unsustainable](#)
- [Put your publication money where your mouth is](#)
- [Writing and publishing a scientific paper](#)
- [Changes in scientific publishing and possible impact on authors' choice of journals](#)

