**Your (Reviewer) Name:** Alexis Wood

**Name of Author:** innocent\_curlew

**Summary**

The paper starts out with a great introduction of the topic evolution, then narrowing down specifically into the species being studied and the hypothesis. Birds’ beaks and wings are being studied, testing if there is a positive correlation between the two traits. The author conducted correlation tests and created graphs to show the relationships between beak and wing size of each species. The discussion wrapped up the paper with explaining the results, supporting the hypothesis. The author also gave examples as to why there could be a correlation, and ways to better understand the correlation such as broader testing and data collection. Overall, I think the paper was very good. The authors introduction started broad and then effectively narrowed the topic down to the reason of the study. The materials and methods were very detailed. The results were straight to the point, and the discussion tied it all together.

**General Comments**

Throughout the paper, there are a few run-on sentences on at least each page. I have marked on the paper where the sentence gets a little confusing to read. There were a few punctuation errors that I did my best to correct for easier understanding of the sentences. Some things I really liked about this paper was the introduction, like I stated above, it flows very well from the big picture into the topic of the study. In the discussion, I liked the alternative reasonings the author gives, and making the comment that there could be no significant reason for these traits to be correlated was something I really liked. Overall, I think the topic is evolutionary and there are no unnecessary points made in the paper. The stats used match what is being tested, the graphs are representative of the data, and the interpretation of the results were great.

**Specific Comments**

Lines 26-28: This seems like it could be worded a little better. I’m not sure exactly how but it seems a little jumbled.

Line 36: I added a comma

Line 42: “generation” should be plural

Line 46: “During this branching” sounds kind of odd, I would suggest other wording. I also changed “things” to “traits”

Line 47: use “the” instead of “their”

Lines 51-53: the word “better” is used a lot, I would try to either take it out, or use a list and the word “improve”

Lines 54-55: I marked the sentence up just to clean it up and better understand it

Line 66-67: use “energy” instead of “power”, delete “help”

Line 73: I think the author meant beak instead of bill, but I may be wrong

Line 79-80: Introducing the data was kind of hard to understand, I think this may be able to be broken up into parts for better understanding

Line 130-132: The bottom of this graph is just one black blob, which looks a bit funky but it may be the only way to show the graph without having something huge.

Figure 2 is a great graph, easy to read, look at, and understand.

Lines 166-169: This also looks like a big run-on sentence that gets a bit confusing. I would try reading it aloud and seeing if you can break it up into smaller parts.

Overall, the idea of the paper and the flow is great. Great work.