Department of Conservation Biology and Entomology

School of Biological Sciences

University of Cape Coast

Ghana

12th October 2023

Dr. Benji Gyampoh

Editor-in-Chief

*Scientific Africa*

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our manuscript titled ‘Factors influencing the foraging success of cattle egrets, *Bubulcus ibis* on arthropods in managed urban green spaces in Ghana’, which we request you to consider for publication as an original manuscript in *Scientific Africa.*

This study addresses the importance of urban green space management practices on the foraging success of an insectivorous bird, the cattle egret, *Bubulcus ibis*. This is a topic of great interest to conservationists and the general public considering the impact of habitat modification on urban biodiversity. We argue that the mechanical management of grassy vegetation in urban environments is beneficial to insectivorous birds hence, such management practices should be integrated into the conservation strategies for urban species. This was justified by the positive effect of arthropod abundance on the foraging efficiency of cattle egrets in mechanically managed urban greenspace. Further, mechanically managed urban green space supports cattle egrets and their prey communities in both the rainy and dry seasons. We also argue that routine maintenance of the height of grassy vegetation and the maintenance of less dense ground cover supports the capture rate of insectivorous birds. We recommend that further investigations should be made to ascertain whether the reliance of cattle egrets on urban green space management strategies for feeding has any evolutionary implications for their survival and fitness.

We are convinced that the findings of this study are relevant to the scope of your journal and will be of interest to its readership. In addition, we explored vegetation, animals, and human elements and how both can contribute to urban biodiversity conservation. We declare no conflict of interest.

This manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Carlos Amissah