Dear Editor,

On behalf of all co-authors, I am submitting a manuscript entitled “*Can migratory birds spread avian haemosporidian parasites?*” for publication in *Oikos*.

Migration has an important impact on the transmission of pathogens. Certainly, migratory birds disperse parasites through their routes and may consequently introduce them to new areas and hosts. Indeed, haemosporidian parasites are among the most prevalent, diverse, and important bird pathogens and we hypothesize that (1) migratory birds spread parasite lineages along their routes, and (2) localities crossed by more migratory routes have greater prevalence and richness of haemosporidians. Thus, we combined a dataset on 13200 bird samples with data from the MalAvi database and used Bayesian multi-level and mixed models to test our hypotheses. In this study, we confirm that migrants can contribute to parasite dispersal, however, bird migration and visiting migrants do not raise local prevalence and actually decrease local richness of avian haemosporidian parasites.

We believe that our findings will be of great interest to investigators of avian malaria and other parasitic diseases, as well as ecologists. Indeed, this article fulfills an important gap about the dynamics of pathogen spread. Therefore, *Oikos* is an ideal journal to reach these investigators.

We confirm that this manuscript presents original work and is not under consideration by any other journal.

Sincerely yours,

Daniela de Angeli Dutra