Dear Dr. O’Hara,

With this letter, please consider our paper "Integrating Resource Selection Information with Spatial Capture-Recapture for publication in Methods in Ecology and Evolution.

In this paper we extend recently developed Spatial Capture-Recapture (SCR) models to accommodate explicit notions of animal space-usage or resource selection consistent with standard notions of “resource selection functions” (Manly et al. 2002). We show that SCR models are models of space usage, we extend SCR models to accommodate resource selection information, we integrate auxiliary data on animal telemetry data into SCR models, provide a joint estimation framework based on marginal likelihood, and we evaluate (by simulation) the improvement in RMSE by using such information, and the bias in estimating N by misspecification by an ordinary SCR model (roughly -20%). Our paper represents a major advance in the field of capture-recapture as it allows ecologists to develop explicit models of animal space usage and test hypotheses based only on sparse individual-level capture-recapture data. Our paper is, equivalently, a major advance in modeling resource selection for the same reasons. The merger of these two distinct methodological themes should be immediately useful in many studies, and has substantial implications in the design and conduct of essentially all future studies of animal populations. Because our paper is, fundamentally, a methodology paper, it is extremely well-suited for MEE and, we believe, it will be well-received by the Journal’s readership.

We hear-by nominate it for the “Best Paper” award.

Sincerely yours,

J. Andy Royle