**Journal of Animal Ecology Author Guidelines:**

**Manuscript Style and Formatting for Standard Papers**

**A. Author\* a, B. Author b, C. Author c, … and X. Author x**

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**Summary**

1. This should summarise the main results and conclusions of the paper using simple, factual, numbered statements. **It must not exceed 350 words***.*
2. Summaries/abstracts are key to getting people to read your article.
3. Summaries should be understandable in isolation from your article.
4. Summaries should only have 5 points, ideally, listing; (1) what the question is, (2) why it is interesting, (3) what was done in the study, (4) what was found and (5) what this means.
5. Advice for optimising your *Summary/Abstract* (and Title) so that your paper is more likely to be found in online searches is provided at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/bauthor/seo.asp>

**Key-words** Listed in alphabetical order, the key-words should not exceed 10 words or short phrases. Please pay attention to the keywords you select: they should not already appear in the title or abstract. Rather, they should be selected to draw in readers from wider areas that might not otherwise pick up your paper when they are using search engines.

**Introduction**

This should state the reason for doing the work, the nature of the hypothesis or hypotheses under consideration, and should outline the essential background.

**Materials and methods**

This should provide sufficient details of the techniques to enable the work to be repeated. Do not describe or refer to commonplace statistical tests in Methods but allude to them briefly in Results.

**Results**

This should state the results, drawing attention in the text to important details shown in tables and figures.

**Discussion**

This should point out the significance of the results in relation to the reasons for doing the work, and place them in the context of other work.

**Data Accessibility**

In order to enable readers to locate archived data from papers, we require that authors list the database (e.g. Dryad, figshare, GenBank etc.) and the respective accession numbers or DOIs for all data from the manuscript that has been made publicly available. Where data is not archived, authors need to still include a data accessibility section and in it explain why data wasn't archived (e.g. sensitive locality data for endangered species).

**Acknowledgements**

In addition to acknowledging collaborators and research assistants, include relevant permit numbers (including institutional animal use permits), acknowledgment of funding sources, and give recognition to nature reserves or other organizations that made this work possible. Do not acknowledge Editors by name.

**Specifications**

Manuscripts should be typed in double spacing with a generous margin. **The paper must include sequential line numbering throughout, and pages should be numbered consecutively, including those containing acknowledgements, references, tables and figure legends.** Authors should submit the main document as a RTF or Word file. Figures can be embedded or uploaded as separate files.  The RTF and Word will be converted to PDF (portable document format) upon upload. Reviewers will review the PDF version while the Word file will remain accessible by the Editorial Office. Manuscripts must be in English, and spelling should conform to the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English.

**References**

References in the text to work by up to three authors should be in full, e.g. (Johnson, Myers & James 2006). If there are more than three authors, they should always be abbreviated thus: (Nilsen et al. 2009). When different groups of authors with the same first author and date occur, they should be cited thus: (Jonsen, Myers & James 2006a; Jonsen, James & Myers 2006b), then subsequently abbreviated to (Jonsen *et al*. 2006a, b).  The references in the list should be in alphabetical order with the journal name in full. The format for papers, entire books, chapters in books, and PhD theses is as follows.

Underwood, N. (2009) Effect of genetic variance in plant quality on the population dynamics of a herbivorous insect. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 78, 839–847.

Jonsen, I.D., Myers, R.A. & James, M.C. (2006) Robust hierarchical state–space models reveal diel variation in travel rates of migrating leatherback turtles. Journal of Animal Ecology, 75, 1046–1057.

Nilsen, E.B., Linnell, J.D.C., Odden, J. & Anderson, R. (2009) Climate, season, and social status modulate the functional response of an efficient stalking predator: the Eurasian lynx. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 78, 741–751.

Otto, S.P. & Day, T. (2007) *A Biologist's Guide to Mathematical Modeling in Ecology and Evolution*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

Conway. G. (2007) A Doubly Green Revolution: ecology and food production. *Theoretical Ecology: Principles and Applications*, 3rd edn (eds R. May & A. McLean), pp. 158–171. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Stevenson, I.R. (1994) *Male-biased mortality in Soay sheep*. PhD thesis, University of Cambridge, Cambridge.

References should only be cited as 'in press' if the paper has been accepted for publication. Other references should be cited as 'unpublished' and not included in the list. Work not yet accepted for publication may be cited in the text and attributed to its author as: author name (including initials), unpublished data. In press articles should be uploaded with the manuscript as ‘supplementary files’.

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* Fully authenticated addresses are included in the reference list, along with titles, years and authors of the sources being cited.
* The sites or information sources have sufficient longevity and ease of access for others to follow up the citation.
* The information is of a scientific quality at least equal to that of peer reviewed information available in learned scientific journals.

***Units, symbols and abbreviations***

Authors are requested to use the International System of Units (SI, Système International d'Unités) where possible for all measurements (see *Quantities, Units and Symbols*, 2nd edn (1975) The Royal Society, London). Note that mathematical expressions should contain symbols not abbreviations. If the paper contains many symbols, it is recommended that they should be defined as early in the text as possible, or within a subsection of the Materials and methods section.

***Scientific names***

Give the Latin names of each species in full, together with the authority for its name, at first mention in the main text. If they appear in the Summary/Abstract, use the common and Latin name only in the first instance, then the Latin or common name thereafter. If there are many species, cite a Flora or checklist which may be consulted for authorities instead of listing them in the text. Do not give authorities for species cited from published references. Give priority to scientific names in the text (with colloquial names in parentheses, if desired).

***Makers' names***

When a special piece of equipment has been used it should be described so that the reader can trace its specifications by writing to the manufacturer; thus: 'Data were collected using a solid-state data logger (CR21X, Campbell Scientific, Utah, USA)'.

***Mathematical material***

Mathematical expressions should be carefully represented. Suffixes and operators such as d, log, ln and exp will be set in Roman type; matrices and vectors will be set in bold type; other algebraic symbols will be set in italic. Make sure that there is no confusion between similar characters like 'l' (ell) and '1' (one). Also make sure that expressions are spaced as you would like them to appear, and if there are several equations they should be identified by eqn 1, etc.

***Numbers in tables***

Do not use an excessive number of digits when writing a decimal number to represent the mean of a set of measurements (the number of digits should reflect the precision of the measurement).

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Numbers from one to nine should be spelled out except when used with units; e.g. two eyes but 10 stomata and 5°C.

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**Figures should not be boxed (superfluous bounding axes) and tick marks must be on the inside of the axes.** Where possible, figures should fit on a single page in the submitted paper. In a final version they will generally be reduced in size by about 50% during production. Wherever possible, they should be sized to fit into a single column width (*c*. 70mm final size). To make best use of space, you may need to rearrange parts of figures (e.g. so that they appear side by side). Please ensure that symbols, labels, etc. are large enough to allow reduction to a final size of *c*. 8 point, i.e. capital letters will be about 2 mm tall. Lettering should use a sans serif font (e.g. Helvetica and Arial) with **capitals used for the initial letter of the first word only. Bold lettering should not be used**. Units of axes should appear in parentheses after the axis name.  Please note that line figures should be at least 600 dpi and half-tones (photos) should be at least 300 dpi.

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***Figure legends***

Legends should be grouped on a separate sheet. Furnish enough detail so that the figure can be understood without reference to the text. In the full-text online edition of the journal, figure legends may be truncated in abbreviated links to the full screen version. Therefore, the first 100 characters of any legend should inform the reader of key aspects of the figure. Figures should be referred to in the text as Fig. 1, etc. (note Figs 1 and 2 with no period).

**Tables**

These should be referred to in the text as Table 1, etc. Do not present the same data in both figure and table form. Each table should be on a separate page, numbered and accompanied by a title at the top.

**Supporting Information**

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For the printed version, any Appendices should be listed under 'Supporting Information', and added after the References, with the opening statement: 'The following Supporting Information is available for this article online' followed by brief captions for the Appendices/Figs/Tables to be included. These should be numbered Appendix S1, Fig. S1, Table S1, etc.

Any literature referred to in the Appendix or online Supporting Information should also be referenced in the Appendix or online Supporting Information so that it is a self-contained piece of work. This may mean duplicating references if any literature is cited in both the main text and the Supporting Information.

All Supporting Information should be submitted online as part of the main manuscript. Please name your online supporting files as ‘online supporting information' and upload them with the main document. This allows the submission web site to combine all the relevant files together but keep them separate when it comes to publication stage.