Geoscientific Model Development Discussions

Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., referee comment RC2
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Comment on gmd-2021-245

Everton Miranda (Referee)

Referee comment on "A validation standard for area of habitat maps for terrestrial birds and mammals" by Prabhat Raj Dahal et al., Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-2021-245-RC2, 2022

Comments for both authors and editors

The present study utilizes a public dataset of mammals and birds to derive a tool to estimate the Area of Habitat, which is a model of high performance in both taxonomic sets. They used a new, two-step validation procedure for Area of Habitat, which includes first a model-based evaluation of model prevalence and second a validation using species point localities data. I feel like the authors could be more practical and propositional on their interpretations along the discussion. The authors infer from observations made on their models that their method of estimating Area of Habitat is high-performing - information that is of prime interest for conservation. These conclusions are corroborated by their associated data. This study is simple and elegant, and in my mind represents a perfect example of conservation-based range modelling. I think GMD is a good fit for this manuscript and I have no hesitation recommending it for publication. Congratulations.