

Peer Review

Review of: "Feathered Icons: Drivers of Global Attention on Bird Species"

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This is an interesting and well-written article. Nevertheless, it has a few shortcomings.

First, scientific interest was quantified using the numbers of articles indexed on the Web of Science that mention a scientific name of a bird species. Such an approach may introduce biases in the dataset and conclusions. First, the Web of Science mainly indexes English-language journals established in Western countries and dominated by Western authors. As such, research interest from non-Western researchers is likely to be underestimated, because studies focused on local and less charismatic species are likely not published in journals indexed by the Web of Science. Also, there are likely studies only available as “grey literature” that may hold more research data on less charismatic species. Next, searches conducted via API on the Web of Science are most likely to use only article meta-data, such as title, abstract, and keywords, rather than full article text. Thus, it will mainly capture studies focused on a single species and miss studies focused on groups of species, e.g., food webs or species diversity. This should be acknowledged as a limitation of this study.

Second, the work lacks transparency and is not reproducible because it is not accompanied by raw data, meta-data, and annotated code (as a link to a trusted repository) – at least, there is no mention of this in the preprint. Also, a visual workflow of data collection, wrangling, and analyses would help navigate the detailed methods, especially given that the methods section comes after Results in this manuscript.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.