

1     **How complex should models be? Comparing correlative and mechanistic**  
2                                    **range dynamics models**  
3

4     **Running head:** Testing distribution model forecasts

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26    model; transferability

27

28 **Abstract**

29 Criticism has been levelled at climate-change induced forecasts of species range shifts that do  
30 not account explicitly for complex population dynamics. The relative importance of such  
31 dynamics under climate change is, however, undetermined because direct tests comparing the  
32 performance of demographic models versus simpler ecological niche models are still lacking  
33 owing to difficulties in evaluating forecasts using real-world data. We provide the first  
34 comparison of the skill of coupled ecological-niche-population models and ecological niche  
35 models in predicting documented shifts in the ranges of 20 British breeding bird species  
36 across a 40-year period. Forecasts from models calibrated with data centred on 1970 were  
37 evaluated using data centred on 2010. We found that more complex coupled ecological-  
38 niche-population models (that account for dispersal and metapopulation dynamics) tend to  
39 have higher predictive accuracy in forecasting species range shifts than structurally simpler  
40 models that only account for variation in climate. However, these better forecasts are  
41 achieved only if ecological responses to climate change are simulated without static  
42 snapshots of historic land use, taken at a single point in time. In contrast, including both static  
43 land use and dynamic climate variables in simpler ecological niche models improves  
44 forecasts of observed range shifts. Despite being less skilful at predicting range changes at  
45 the grid cell level, ecological niche models do as well, or better, than more complex models  
46 at predicting the magnitude of relative change in range size. Therefore, ecological niche  
47 models can provide a reasonable first approximation of the magnitude of species' potential  
48 range shifts, especially when more detailed data are lacking on dispersal dynamics,  
49 demographic processes underpinning population performance, and change in land cover.

50

51

## 52 **Introduction**

53 There is unprecedented demand for forecasts of biodiversity change owing to the multiple  
54 human threatening processes affecting species and ecosystems worldwide (Mouquet *et al.*,  
55 2015, Pereira *et al.*, 2010). The unparalleled access to large quantities of ecological data,  
56 coupled with increasingly sophisticated statistical and modelling tools, offers great promise  
57 for improving ecological forecasts. However, model usefulness is contingent on them being  
58 able to transfer predictions in space and/or time (Stewart *et al.*, 2015, Willis *et al.*, 2007). But  
59 how can one assess a model's capacity to anticipate global change impacts on species if  
60 climate change scenarios have not yet occurred?

61 Pragmatically, performance is usually assessed by testing the model predictions  
62 against records from the regions or time periods used to train the models (Araújo & Rahbek,  
63 2006). Previous studies based on hindcasts (backwards projections) of past range shifts have  
64 used a variety of time horizons and taxonomic groups, and their results on model  
65 transferability are heterogeneous. For example, predictive ability across time was generally  
66 low in studies on cetaceans (hindcasts for the 1970s, Lambert *et al.*, 2014) and plants (late  
67 Pleistocene; Maguire *et al.*, 2016). In a study on birds, observed changes in abundance were  
68 significantly positively correlated to the model predictions in only 59% of cases (Illán *et al.*,  
69 2014) — little better than an even bet. Even for models that were reasonably accurate in  
70 predicting range area for the training period, predictive skill tended to deteriorate  
71 substantially when used to forecast range shifts (Araujo *et al.*, 2005 [birds], Roberts &  
72 Hamann, 2012 [plants], Smith *et al.*, 2013[mammals]). Possible explanations for poor model  
73 transferability include the appearance of non-analogue climates (Pearson *et al.*, 2006), the  
74 lack of conservatism in species environmental tolerances (Pearman *et al.*, 2008a) and novel  
75 species interactions (Smith *et al.*, 2013). Where studies have found fair to good predictive  
76 accuracy over time, model transferability typically varied across species (Pearman *et al.*,

77 2008b), the level of management (Macias-Fauria & Willis, 2013), or the degree of stability  
78 in species-environment correlations (Rubidge *et al.*, 2011).

79       Importantly, all of these studies have used comparisons of different flavours of  
80 correlative ecological niche models (ENMs) — the most frequent type of modelling approach  
81 used to predict species range shifts (Araujo & Peterson, 2012). These models statistically  
82 correlate species ranges (occurrence or abundance data at known locations) with information  
83 on the environmental characteristics of those locations thought to delimit the species'  
84 tolerances for those environmental conditions (Elith & Leathwick, 2009). Once fitted to  
85 historical or present-day data, the models can be used to predict the species ranges across a  
86 landscape under future change. Ecological niche models have a set of inherent limitations  
87 (Guisan & Thuiller, 2005), but are generally considered to deliver a useful approximation of  
88 suitable areas, contingent on their appropriate use (Araujo & Peterson, 2012). However, one  
89 of the major shortcomings of ENMs for climate change applications is that they do not  
90 explicitly incorporate a species' propensity to colonise new locations, nor do they model the  
91 rate at which species will disappear from old locations (Elith *et al.*, 2010).

92       It has been argued that a more detailed understanding of species responses to  
93 environmental change, and an improvement in forecasts of species range shifts, requires more  
94 mechanistic models of range dynamics (Fordham *et al.*, 2014, Singer *et al.*, 2016). One  
95 approach is to combine species demography with climate suitability (typically derived from  
96 ENMs) and dispersal across a landscape, to simulate population dynamics within an  
97 integrative framework (Fordham *et al.*, 2013a). These models are potentially more realistic  
98 and less prone to bias than correlative ENMs alone (Zurell *et al.*, 2016), because they account  
99 for potentially important metapopulation processes, and multiple human impacts (Ehrlén &  
100 Morris, 2015, Fordham *et al.*, 2013c). Furthermore, they can directly measure extinction risk  
101 (population declines and other measures of stochastic viability), as well as change in habitat

102 area, when assessing climate change impacts on biodiversity (Fordham *et al.*, 2012). Despite  
103 their increased popularity, demographic models linked to ENMs require more detailed field  
104 data for parameterisation, and have never been validated against real-world independent data.  
105 Such testing is critical for determining whether the addition of key information on species'  
106 vital rates (e.g., growth rate, density dependence) improves estimates of range shifts and  
107 extinction risk under climate change scenarios.

108 Here, we predict historical range shifts in response to past climate change using  
109 coupled demographic ENMs, and assess model performance using observed changes in  
110 species' ranges. In addition, we test if the performance of these complex models is superior to  
111 simpler correlative ENMs. To realise this aim, we made use of a unique dataset: a breeding  
112 bird population census of 20 species in the United Kingdom (UK) in 1970 and 2010. Because  
113 the 2010 dataset has only recently become available, results from previous model-validation  
114 studies have been based on observed range movements over 20 years (1970 – 1990) rather  
115 than 40 years period (e.g., Araujo *et al.*, 2005, Pearce-Higgins *et al.*, 2015, Rapacciuolo *et al.*,  
116 2012)

117 We trained models of different complexity, using the species' occurrence in the  
118 1970s, species' dispersal constraints, and demographic parameters estimated from time series  
119 abundance data centred on 1970, to forecast species ranges in 2010, where we had  
120 (independent) test distribution data. In total, we fitted 8 model types (Fig. 1) that represented  
121 a gradient from simpler correlative ENMs, to dispersal-linked ENMs, through to complex  
122 spatially explicit population models. Our general aim was to examine whether theoretically  
123 more realistic models (by virtue of accounting for a greater level of ecological processes)  
124 would deliver improved approximations of observed species range shifts. More specifically,  
125 we (i) compared models with and without the inclusion of land use and demographic  
126 processes (i.e., population growth and colonisation and extinction dynamics), (ii) evaluated

127 models with different dispersal hypotheses (no dispersal, a distance-decay dispersal function,  
128 unlimited dispersal), and (iii) examined which models are more likely to result in ‘false  
129 negative’ or ‘false positive’ errors. Our results improve knowledge of whether simpler  
130 models are more transferable.

## 131 **Material and Methods**

### 132 ***Data***

#### 133 *Bird occurrence, climate and land use data*

134 British birds are one of the most extensively surveyed faunas in the world (Baillie *et al.*,  
135 2014). We compiled occurrence data for 20 British bird species using the Breeding Atlas  
136 10km grid-cell data for two time periods: 1968–72 ( $t_1$ ), 2007–2011 ( $t_2$ ). Species were chosen  
137 on the basis that (i) there were sufficient data available to parameterise demographic models;  
138 and (ii) they were not seasonal migrants or shore birds because of difficulties in defining  
139 explicit areas of occupancy for these groups (Bradshaw *et al.*, 2014). We also excluded  
140 species with fewer than 20 occurrence records in the first recording period, because of  
141 problems related to modelling data with small sample sizes (Stockwell & Peterson, 2002).  
142 There is a risk of biases in extrapolations associated with incomplete characterizations of  
143 climatic niches (Pearson *et al.*, 2004), potentially inflating forecast risks from climate change  
144 (Araújo *et al.*, 2011). To avoid this problem, data for birds for the baseline period (1968-  
145 1972) from the British Bird Atlas were amalgamated with European wide distributions at  
146 50km grid-cell resolution from a digitized version of the Atlas of European Breeding Birds  
147 (Hagemeyer & Blair, 1997). Ecological niche models were thus initially trained with British  
148 and European wide distributions data, and then projected in Britain alone (Pearson *et al.*,  
149 2004).

150       Annual mean values (1970–2000) for mean minimum temperature in February (°C),  
151 mean maximum temperature in July (°C), and mean total annual precipitation (millimetres)

152 were derived from the Climate Research Unit (CRU) monthly climate data (New *et al.*,  
153 2000). The data provide monthly values for 1901–2000 in a 10' (c.a. 16 x 16 km grid)  
154 resolution that overlapped with the terrestrial area of Europe, including England, Wales, and  
155 Scotland. The baseline climate record was extended to 2010 using the ALARM business-as-  
156 might-be-usual (BAMBU) storyline (Fronzek *et al.*, 2012). These combined data provided a  
157 homogenous 40-year annual-step climate data series. The difference between ALARM  
158 storylines were negligible for the UK in 2010 (see Supporting Information, Fig. S1); and are  
159 similar to more recent CRU TS 3.2 data ( $< \pm 0.5$  °C for temperature variables and  $< \pm 0.25$   
160 mm/day for annual precipitation; Harris *et al.*, 2014). Our choice of climate variables reflects  
161 those known to impose constraints on bird ranges as a result of widely shared physiological  
162 limitations (Crick, 2004, Lennon *et al.*, 2000), having been used in several modelling studies  
163 of birds in the UK (Araujo *et al.*, 2005, Bradshaw *et al.*, 2014, Pearson *et al.*, 2004). All  
164 climate data were projected onto the British Breeding Bird Atlas occurrence 10km-grid and  
165 the European Breeding Birds Atlas 50km-grid using cubic spline interpolation.

166 We generated species-specific land-cover suitability maps using CORINE vector  
167 datasets for 1990, 2000, and 2006. We obtained these maps after: (i) classifying land cover  
168 classes as suitable or unsuitable at a 25m grid-cell resolution; and (ii) calculating the  
169 proportion of suitable land-cover within a 10km grid-cell. We used five land use categories  
170 (wet habitats, crop, pastures, forests, shrub lands), corresponding to the main habitats used by  
171 the birds in our study. The output was grid-cell habitat suitability values varying continuously  
172 between 0 and 1, representing the proportion of suitable habitat per grid cell (i.e., 0 = no  
173 suitable habitat; 1 = entire grid-cell consisted of suitable habitat). Habitat classifications were  
174 based on information from the British Bird Atlas (Baillie *et al.*, 2014) and expert advice.  
175 Spatial variation in land-cover suitability was similar between the three available time periods  
176 (Table S1). Therefore, to avoid the risk of uncertainty propagating through to results due to

177 classification errors in the temporal sequence of land use layers (Mouquet *et al.*, 2015), and  
178 because we did not have land use data for the initial 20 years of the simulation, we treated  
179 land-cover suitability (centred on 1990, the midpoint of the simulation) as a static variable in  
180 the models focused on the mid-point of the study period. For species specific maps of land  
181 use suitability see Supporting Information, Fig. S2 and Table S1

## 182 **Modelling**

183 Using ecological niche models as the simplest modelling unit, we generated seven alternative  
184 model types with differing levels of complexity (Fig. 1). These models fell into three families  
185 (described in more detail below): simple Ecological Niche Models (ENMs); dispersal-linked  
186 niche models (Dispersal); and niche-population models (Metapop). More, specifically, these  
187 models were 1) ENMs affected by climate change and assuming unlimited dispersal  
188 (thereafter referred to as *ENM\_UD*), 2) ENMs affected by climate change and land use and  
189 assuming unlimited dispersal (*ENM\_UD\_LU*), 3) ENMs affected by climate change and  
190 assuming no dispersal (*ENM\_ND*), 4) ENMs affected by climate change and land use and  
191 assuming no dispersal (*ENM\_ND\_LU*), 5) ENMs affected by climate change and species'  
192 specific dispersal constraints (*DISPERSAL*), 6) ENM affected by climate change, land use  
193 and species' specific dispersal constraints (*DISPERSAL\_LU*), 7) ENMs affected by climate  
194 change and species' specific extinction and colonization dynamics (*METAPOP*), and 8)  
195 ENMs affected by climate change, land use and species' specific extinction and colonization  
196 dynamics (*METAPOP\_LU*).

### 197 *Ecological Niche Models*

198 We used 12 different ecological niche modelling techniques fitted with climate and land use  
199 predictors, using BIOENSEMBLES (Diniz-Filho *et al.*, 2009). An ensemble of ENMs was  
200 generated for each one of the 20 species considered. Ensemble forecasting approaches  
201 account for inter-model variation in predictions (Araújo & New, 2007), and there is



202 empirical evidence that consensus predictions derived from multiple models within  
203 ensembles can improve projections of individual models in contexts of transferability under  
204 climate change (Araujo *et al.*, 2005). We fitted ensembles of forecasts using the following  
205 techniques: BioClim; Euclidian Distance (EUC); Gower Distance (GOW); Mahalanobis  
206 Distance (MAH); Generalized Linear Models (GLM); Generalized Additive Models (GAM);  
207 Random Forests (RF); Genetic Algorithm for Rule-set Production (GARP); Ecological Niche  
208 Factor Analysis (ENFA); MaxEnt, Neural Networks (NN); and Multivariate Adaptive  
209 Regression Splines (MARs). BIOCLIM, MAH, EUC and GOW were fitted to species  
210 occurrence records (presence only), while MaxEnt, ENFA and GARP use background  
211 information, describing a random sample of non-occurrences from the region of interest.  
212 GLM, GAM, RF, NN and MARs were parameterized assuming that absences represent true  
213 absence of the species. By varying the assumptions regarding absence data we captured the  
214 variability in projections accrued from such assumption in the models.

215           Models were calibrated using European-wide occurrence data for  $t_1$  matched to  
216 average climate data for 1968–72. Models were trained using 80% random sample of the  
217 initial data and tested against the remaining 20% of data (Fielding & Haworth, 1995).  
218 Accuracy of predicted distributions in the training set were measured for every model using  
219 the area under the curve (AUC) of the receiver operation characteristic (ROC) and the true  
220 skill statistic (TSS) (Liu *et al.*, 2005). Models with low performance (TSS<0.3) were  
221 discarded from the ensemble (Garcia *et al.*, 2012). The remaining ENMs were used to predict  
222 probability of occurrence or climate suitability and presence and absence at annual time-steps  
223 from 1970 to 2010. Modelled probabilities or climate suitabilities were transformed into  
224 predictions of presence and absence of species in the grid cells, using thresholds defined by  
225 AUC for presence-absence models and fixed cut-offs for presence only models. Consensus

226 about the predicted distribution of the species was obtained by recording the areas where at  
227 least 40% of the models agreed that the species would occur there (Araújo *et al.*, 2011).

228 In total, we generated four different types of ENMs (see above and Fig. 1). The  
229 ‘unlimited dispersal’ scenario (ENM\_UD) assumes that the species can completely migrate to  
230 future suitable areas (in 2010), that no individuals remain in unsuitable grid cells, and that all  
231 suitable areas are occupied. In other words, species are presumed to be constantly in  
232 equilibrium with climate (Araujo & Peterson, 2012). The ‘no dispersal’ scenario (ENM\_ND)  
233 assumes that the species cannot migrate beyond its observed range for the training period  
234 (1970). Therefore, only grid cells that were suitable in 1970 and 2010 were assumed to be  
235 occupiable between these time periods. The ENMs with climate, land use and unlimited  
236 dispersal (ENM\_LU) were generated by classifying grid cells as unsuitable if land use  
237 suitability was below a minimum area threshold (even if the ENM classified those grid-cells  
238 as climatically suitable) of 0.0025 (i.e., a grid-cell needed 250m x 250m of suitable habitat to  
239 be considered habitable) needed to sustain a breeding pair of birds. This is likely to be a  
240 conservative threshold for some bird species in our analysis. The ENMs with climate, land  
241 use and no dispersal (ENM\_LU\_ND) used ENM\_LU predictions but assumed that only grid  
242 cells that were occupied in both 1970 and 2010 were occupiable between these time periods.

#### 243 *Dispersal Models*

244 Projections by ENMs of future grid cells suitable for colonization were linked to a stochastic  
245 dispersal model, using a cellular/lattice spatial structure consisting of 2 665 grid-cells (10 km  
246 x 10 km longitude/latitude grid-cell resolution). Cells were classed as either suitable or not  
247 suitable at each time step. Natal dispersal was modelled using published estimates from  
248 Paradis *et al.* (1998). More specifically, we used species’ specific dispersal kernels to model  
249 the probability of dispersal between grid cells of suitable habitat during each time step as an  
250 exponential function:  $P = a \cdot \exp(D^{1/b})$ , where D is the distance between grid cell centroids, a is

251 the proportion of individuals that disperse in all radial directions,  $b$  is the mean dispersal  
252 distance of the species (Akçakaya & Root, 2005). When  $D$  exceeds a specified maximum  
253 distance ( $D_{\max}$ ) that a species is expected to be able to disperse  $P$  is set to zero. See Table S2  
254 for species-specific dispersal parameters. We modelled a high level of stochasticity in  
255 dispersal rates (co-efficient of variation = 1; Paradis et al. 1998) and assumed that colonised  
256 cells stabilise at a species-specific maximum density (set at maximum  $K$  between 1970 and  
257 2010; see below) within a three year period using an exponential population growth function.  
258 The approach we used is similar to MigClim (Engler *et al.*, 2012), in that the model's basic  
259 unit is a cell that is occupiable or not, dispersal is defined by a dispersal kernel and propagule  
260 pressure is a function of the time since colonisation. It differs from MigClim in that it models  
261 the probability of the proportion of individuals that move between cells, not the probability of  
262 a dispersal event. This has both advantages and limitations (Engler & Guisan, 2009),  
263 however, we chose this method because outputs are directly comparable to those from the  
264 coupled niche-population models described below. The dispersal-only models were  
265 implemented in RAMAS Metapop (Akçakaya & Root, 2005). The model was initialised  
266 using the approach described for coupled niche-population models (see below), allowing us  
267 to directly compare model output with and without stochastic population growth and its  
268 interaction with dispersal.

### 269 *Coupled niche-population models*

270 ENMs with climate and with and without land use were coupled with a stochastic population  
271 model that captures extinction as well as colonization dynamics (*Metapop*) by simulating  
272 landscape-level population processes and dispersal with source and sink dynamics (Fordham  
273 *et al.*, 2013a). The demographic models for British birds used an identical cellular/lattice  
274 spatial structure to the dispersal-only models and were implemented in RAMAS Metapop.  
275 Each grid cell was modelled with a scalar-type stochastic model, which simulates the finite

276 rate of population increase “ $R$ ”, its variance and the population carrying capacity (Dunham *et*  
277 *al.*, 2006). The carrying capacity of birds in each grid cell for simulations with land use was  
278 calculated as:

$$279 \quad K = thr (maximum\ abundance \times land\ cover \times climate\ suitability, minimum\ abundance)$$

280 Where, *maximum abundance* was the highest density of birds expected in a 10 km grid-cell  
281 when land cover = 1 and climate = 1. If abundance at any time was less than a *minimum*  
282 *abundance*, then a threshold function (*thr*) set abundance to zero, simulating a simple Allee  
283 effect. *Land cover* was the proportion of the grid cell that is potentially habitable based on  
284 land use type. *Climate suitability* was the output of the ecological niche model (with no  
285 threshold for prevalence), scaled between 0 and 1. The minimum abundance value was set  
286 iteratively by maximising the kappa score (Monserud & Leemans, 1992) between simulated  
287 and observed range in  $t_1$  (i.e., 1970) using 10-fold cross validation for minimum abundance  
288 values ranging from 1 to 1,000 females per 10 x 10 km grid cell.

289 The carrying capacity of birds in each grid cell for simulations without land use was  
290 calculated as:

$$291 \quad K = thr (maximum\ abundance \times climate\ suitability \times max\ land\ cover, minimum\ abundance)$$

292 Where, *max land cover* is the maximum area of suitable land use in any given 10km x 10km  
293 cell divided by the area of that cell. This scaling parameter prevents superabundant  
294 populations that can arise as a result of the relatively coarse spatial resolution of the model  
295 (10 km grids) (Fordham *et al.*, 2013b). The minimum abundance value was set using an  
296 identical technique to  $K$  with land use. Climate suitability was the same for  $K$  with and  
297 without land use.

298 We used long-term population dynamics time-series data to calculate finite rates of  
299 population increase and their variance (Brook & Bradshaw, 2006). The minimum length of  
300 these time series were 12 year-to-year transitions with a mean duration of 27 year-to-year

301 transitions. The time series overlapped closely with the study period (mean focal year =  
302 1965), which is close to the year used to calibrate the ENMs (1970), and, therefore,  
303 reasonable as the basis to estimate demographic parameters in the *Metapop* models.  
304 Estimates of maximum finite rate of population increase ( $R_{\max}$ ) and standard deviation around  
305 the intrinsic rate of population growth were calculated following Brook and Bradshaw  
306 (2006) and are reported in Table S2. The standard deviation value was used to model  
307 population fluctuations driven by environmental stochasticity (Fordham *et al.*, 2013b). We  
308 used multi-model inference (Burnham & Anderson, 2002) to assign strengths of evidence for  
309 two population dynamics models commonly used to describe phenomenological time series  
310 data: a density independent model (random walk) and a density dependent model (Ricker-  
311 logistic population growth). On this basis, each species was assigned either a density  
312 independent or density dependent model of population growth (Table S2). Density  
313 dependence was modelled using the “scramble competition” function in RAMAS, whereby as  
314 population abundance in a grid-cell increases, the amount of resources per individual  
315 decreases, as dictated by  $K$ . Density independence was modelled independent of  $K$ , by  
316 allowing  $K$  to affect grid-cell abundance only when climate and /or land use suitability = 0.  
317 The proportion of dispersers moving between grid cells of suitable habitat during each time  
318 step was modelled using a species-specific dispersal kernel and a CV = 1 (see Dispersal-only  
319 Model). Stochasticity in dispersal was driven by temporal variability in population growth  
320 rate as well as variability in the natal dispersal kernel.

321 Initial abundance in the first time step ( $t$ ) was firstly modelled as being equal to 80%  
322 of  $K$ . A burn-in period of 10 years (1 000 iterations) was used to generate a stable initial  
323 equilibrium abundance and patch (occupied grid-cell) structure under the assumption of  
324 constant 1970 climate conditions (Fordham *et al.*, 2012). All simulations were based on 1 000  
325 stochastic replicates and run over a 41 year period (i.e., 1970–2010).

326 *Independent Model Testing*

327 We compared observations and predictions for all 20 species using the three types of models  
328 with varying levels of realism and complexity (ENM, Dispersal, Metapop). Specifically, we  
329 compared observed and predicted spatial patterns of species ranges for  $t_2$ , and changes in  
330 range size between  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ . This allowed us to identify models that give similar spatial  
331 projections and make generalisations across species regarding which model types best  
332 describe observed range dynamics (Garcia *et al.*, 2012). Change in range area between  $t_1$  and  
333  $t_2$  was calculated as the difference between the number of 10 km grid-cells gained by the  
334 species (i.e., sites where the species was present in  $t_2$  but absent in  $t_1$ ) and the number of sites  
335 lost (i.e., sites where the species was absent in  $t_2$  but present in  $t_1$ ) relative to the total number  
336 of sites occupied in  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  (i.e., the stable range) (Delean *et al.*, 2013).

337 We used the True Skill Statistic (TSS) to compare predicted with observed patterns of  
338 presences and absences in 2010 for each species. This metric has been shown to be a simple  
339 and intuitive measure for discerning the accuracy of predictions when they are expressed as  
340 presence-absence maps (Allouche *et al.*, 2006). Because choice of evaluation metric can  
341 influence estimates of predictive accuracy (Allouche *et al.*, 2006) we also show results for  
342 area under the Receiver Operating Characteristic curve (AUC) (Swets, 1988). We used  
343 Generalized Linear Models (GLM, Gaussian-identity distribution-link) to explore the relative  
344 importance of different predictor variables on overall prediction accuracy (TSS and AUC),  
345 omission (falsely predicted absences) and commission errors (falsely predicted presences)  
346 i.e., based on results from 20 species x 8 different model configurations ( $n = 160$ ). The  
347 predictor variables were '*species*', '*model type*', '*land use*' and '*dispersal type*'. In each case,  
348 we inspected model residuals for normality and then chose an exponential transformation for  
349 TSS and omission error; and a log transformation for commission error. These  
350 transformations achieved normality for the response variable. We compared these models to a

351 null model, which assumes a single rate across ‘*species*’, ‘*model type*’, ‘*land use*’ and  
352 ‘*dispersal type*’. For each GLM, we calculated the log-likelihood (LL), percentage of  
353 deviance explained, change in AIC compared to the best-ranked model ( $\Delta\text{AIC}$ ), model  
354 weights ( $\omega\text{AIC}$ ). To avoid over parameterising GLMs we tested single term models for  
355 omission and commission errors and models with simple two-way interaction terms (*model*  
356 *type* : *land use*; *dispersal type* : *land use*) for predictive accuracy.

## 357 **Results**

### 358 *Predicting changes in patterns of occurrence*

359 Projections of geographic patterns of range contraction and expansion varied considerably  
360 across models and species (Fig. S3), as illustrated in detail for two selected species (Fig. 2 &  
361 3). We show that both the choice of dispersal type (no dispersal, unlimited dispersal,  
362 dispersal function) and how to model land use (and their interaction) influenced model skill  
363 in predicting observed patterns of occurrence in 2010 (Fig. 4 & Fig S4).

364 A multi-termed model with explanatory variables *dispersal* and *land use* (and their  
365 interaction) had the largest effect on predictive accuracy based on TSS ( $\text{TSS} \sim \text{species}$ ;  $\omega_i =$   
366 0.78), explaining 22% of the variance when compared to the null model (Table 1). There was  
367 also some support for the next two best-ranked models that modelled TSS as a function of  
368 *species* ( $\text{TSS} \sim \text{model}$ ;  $\omega_i = 0.13$ ,  $\Delta\text{AIC}_c = 3.58$ ,  $\text{DEV} = 36\%$ ); and as a function of type of  
369 *model*, *land use* and their interaction ( $\text{TSS} \sim \text{model} : \text{land use}$ ;  $\omega_i = 0.01$ ,  $\Delta\text{AIC}_c = 0.01$ ,  $\text{DEV}$   
370  $= 24\%$ ). Likewise, the choice of method of dispersal, and whether to consider land use, had  
371 the largest influence on AUC predictive accuracy ( $\text{AUC} \sim \text{dispersal} : \text{land use}$ ;  $\omega_i = 0.89$ ),  
372 explaining 24% of structural deviance (Table 1). Including land use in ENM models tended  
373 to improve predictions of occurrence patterns in 2010 (Figures 4 & 5). In strong contrast,  
374 including land use in DISPERSAL and METAPOPOP models tended to provide less accurate

375 predictions of occurrence patterns (Figures 4 & 5). In general, DISPERSAL and  
376 METAPOPOPmodels were most skilful in predicting changes in occurrence patterns, but only if  
377 land use was not considered in the model.

### 378 *Predicting changes in range area*

379 Models tended to do a fair-to-good job at predicting observed proportional changes in range  
380 area, regardless of model type (Figure 6). The difference from observed values was low (<  
381 10%) for  $\geq 50\%$  of the birds modelled (with and without land-use) using ENMs (n = 10-11),  
382  $\geq 45\%$  of birds with DISPERSAL models (n = 9-11), and  $\geq 30\%$  of birds with METAPOPOP  
383 models (n = 6-9). The median difference between observed and predicted change in range  
384 area was 8.6 – 9.8 % for ENMs, 10.1 – 11.2 % for DISPERSAL and 9.9 – 16.3 % for  
385 METAPOPOP. Although skill in predicting changes in range area for a given modelling  
386 approach varied across species (Figure 6), all models did poorly at predicting observed range  
387 increases and decreases for some species. For example, no models were able to accurately  
388 predict the large range expansion undergone by *Alectoris rufa* or the large contraction  
389 experienced by *Perdix perdix* (Fig. 6). There were only three species (*Carduelis cannabina*,  
390 *Corvus corone* and *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) for which all eight models predicted  $< \pm 10\%$   
391 difference between observed and predicted net losses or gains of habitat (Figure 6). None of  
392 these species were in the upper or lower quartiles for observed range movement (i.e., they did  
393 not undergo relatively large levels of range expansion or contraction during the observation  
394 period). On average, models consistently predicted the correct direction of observed change  
395 (i.e., expansion or contraction) in range shifts in about 50% of cases (Figure S5), ranging  
396 from 25 - 35% (ENM\_ND\_LU and ENM\_ND) to 60 to 70% (METAPOPOP\_LU, METAPOPOP)  
397 depending on the type of model ( $10 \pm 1.03$  species, mean  $\pm$  standard error).

398 In general more complex models without land use tended to better predict range size  
399 in 2010 (Table S3). The median difference between observed and predicted range size in



400 2010 was  $\pm 9\%$  for METAPOP,  $\pm 10\%$  for DISPERSAL,  $\pm 13\%$  for ENM\_ND,  $\pm 22\%$  for  
401 ENM\_UD. Accounting for land use greatly improved predictions of 2010 range size for  
402 ENM\_UD\_LU ( $\pm 13\%$ ), but reduced predictive accuracy for DISPERSAL and METAPOP  
403 models ( $\pm 20\%$  and  $23\%$ , respectively). Masking unsuitable land-use types had no noticeable  
404 effect on predictions of 2010 range size for ENM\_ND\_LU ( $\pm 13\%$ ).

#### 405 *Commission and omission errors*

406 There was greatest AIC support for modelling commission errors (falsely predicted  
407 presences) as a function of '*model type*' ( $\omega_i = 0.63$ , DEV = 25.3%). There was slightly less  
408 support for the alternative hypothesis that '*dispersal type*' affects commission errors ( $\omega_i =$   
409  $0.37$ ,  $\Delta AIC_c = 1.1$ , DEV = 23.8%). There was much less support for modelling commission  
410 errors as either a function of '*land use*', or '*species*' ( $\omega_i = 0$ ,  $\Delta AIC_c = 34.7$ , DEV = 4.8%;  $\omega_i =$   
411  $0$ ,  $\Delta AIC_c = 41.8$ , DEV = 23.4%), compared to '*model type*'. Using ENMs to predict  
412 occurrence patterns in 2010 generally resulted in larger commission errors (Figure S6),  
413 particular when land use was not used to mask out unsuitable areas for occupancy because of  
414 non-climatic factors.

415 The explanatory variable '*land use*' had the largest effect on omission errors (falsely  
416 predicted absences), explaining 22.5% of model structural deviance ( $\omega_i = 0.68$ ). Including land  
417 use resulted in higher omission errors. There was much less support for modelling omission  
418 errors as a function of '*model type*', '*dispersal*' and '*species*' ( $\omega_i = 0$ ,  $\Delta AIC_c = 15.1$ , DEV =  
419 17.1%,  $\omega_i = 0$ ,  $\Delta AIC_c = 17.4$ , DEV = 14.7%,  $\omega_i = 0$ ,  $\Delta AIC_c = 38.8$ , DEV = 24.1%). Including  
420 land use in model predictions resulted in greater omission errors (Figure S6).

421

#### 422 **Discussion**

423 Using independent validation data over a 40-year period, we found support for the view that  
424 more realistic and complex coupled niche-population models are likely to have higher

425 predictive accuracy in forecasting species range shifts than structurally simpler models that  
426 only account for variation in climate (Ehrlén & Morris, 2015, Fordham *et al.*, 2013c).  
427 However, these better predictions of observed presence-absence patterns were only achieved  
428 when the effects of a single static snapshot of land use (focused on the midpoint of the  
429 simulation) on dispersal and other demographic processes were not considered in model  
430 simulations. In strong contrast, a mixture of static land use and dynamic climate variables  
431 improved ecological niche model forecasts of observed range shifts. These results reinforce  
432 the need for using statistically independent data to validate model outputs prior to making  
433 firm conclusions about the relative value of alternative modelling options (Araújo & Rahbek,  
434 2006).

#### 435 *Comparison of models with and without land use*

436 Approaches for combining dynamic and static environmental variables in range dynamics  
437 models for forecasting range shifts under climate projections remain poorly understood  
438 (Stanton *et al.*, 2012). Using maps of land use in 1990 to mask out areas that are unsuitable  
439 because of non-climatic factors in 2010, tended to improve predictions of observed range  
440 shifts from ecological niche models, by reducing false positive predictions (commission  
441 errors; Figure S6), with two rare exceptions. For *Cygnos olor* and *Gallinula chloropus* the  
442 addition of land use in ecological niche models largely reduced predictive performance  
443 (Figure 5). It might be that our classification of unsuitable habitat for these two species was  
444 incorrect and they were more flexible in their habitat requirements than assumed or that land  
445 use preferences changed markedly for these two species between 1990 and 2010.  
446 Alternatively, they might today be 'committed' to extirpation in these areas with unsuitable  
447 land use, and these delayed local extinction events have not yet been realised (Fordham *et al.*,  
448 2016).

449           In strong contrast, masking out areas that are unsuitable for occupancy because of  
450 non-climatic factors in models with species' specific dispersal constraints (*DISPERSAL\_LU*)  
451 and extinction and colonization dynamics (*METAPOP\_LU*) resulted in a decrease in  
452 predictive accuracy, brought about by higher false negative predictions (Omission errors;  
453 Figure S6). This is because these more mechanistic approaches model dispersal and  
454 metapopulation processes as dynamic functions of land use (as well as climate suitability)  
455 continuously (usually at annual time steps) for the entire simulation period. By using a static  
456 snapshot of land use, focused on the midpoint of the simulation, the interactions between land  
457 use and ecological processes were simulated under the unlikely assumption that land use in  
458 the UK did not change between 1970 and 2010, and that the snapshot is a reliable projection  
459 of land use 20 years before and after 1990. Since land use and land cover in the UK has  
460 changed over short timescales since 1970 (Rounsevell & Reay, 2009), mismatches between  
461 simulated and actual land use prior to 1990 is likely to have resulted in the propagation of  
462 incorrect trajectories of species range movement early in the simulations, leading to  
463 inaccurate maps of presences and absences in 2010.

464           Although land use has been assumed to be important in models of range dynamics  
465 (Triviño *et al.*, 2011) and its capacity to improve range predictions has been tested previously  
466 using virtual species ranges (Stanton *et al.*, 2012), our new analysis provides an important  
467 test of these findings using a real-world independent validation dataset. We show that the  
468 common practice of using static land use predictors in coupled niche-population models to  
469 continuously mask out areas from forecasts that are unsuitable because of non-climate factors  
470 (e.g., Fordham *et al.*, 2013b, Harris *et al.*, 2012) should be abandoned if there is a high  
471 probability that land use will change over the simulation period. However, applying  
472 restrictive masks to ecological niche model predictions of habitat suitability will improve  
473 forecasts if land use closely resembles the future landscape. This is because the end point is

474 what matters for the predictive accuracy of statistical-based models, not the conditions  
475 leading up to this end point (i.e., the road travelled). Models fitted with land use tended to  
476 have higher omission rates than models without land use regardless of model complexity.

#### 477 *Comparison of models with different dispersal hypotheses*

478 In our models, we used a gradient of different dispersal hypotheses from unlimited to no  
479 dispersal and, unsurprisingly, the more restrictive assumptions (no dispersal or a dispersal  
480 function) generated predictions of smaller range sizes than unlimited dispersal. Different  
481 model types with different dispersal hypotheses explained > 20 % of the variance in the  
482 predictive accuracy (TSS, AUC), when choice of whether or not to model land use was also  
483 considered. Models with species' specific dispersal constraints and no land use tended to  
484 provide the most accurate presence/absence maps in 2010. This result supports the view that  
485 models, which explicitly simulate dispersal, should provide improved predictions of range  
486 shifts (Bocedi *et al.*, 2014), but only when there are reliable enough projections of land use  
487 change to effectively simulate the dynamic interaction between land use and dispersal. Not  
488 constraining dispersal in ecological niche models (ENM\_UD) always resulted in lower TSS  
489 values than ecological niche models that assumed no dispersal at all (ENM\_ND). This result  
490 provides a cautionary note for the common practice of using ecological niche models with an  
491 unlimited dispersal simplification to forecast species range movement under climate change,  
492 and differs from conclusions based on model convergence (Engler *et al.*, 2009), as opposed to  
493 our independent model validation.

#### 494 *Complex vs. simple models*

495 Simpler models might theoretically be expected to outperform more complex demographic  
496 models because they are arguably more transferable, due to their generality (Bell &  
497 Schlaepfer, 2016, Randin *et al.*, 2006). Although, more complex (and potentially more  
498 ecologically realistic) models that included dispersal and other demographic processes as

499 explicit parameters tended to improve predictions of recent range changes for our sample of  
500 British breeding birds, large levels of variation in predictive performance (TSS and AUC)  
501 were found among species. For example, the simplest model for *Alectoris rufa* – fitted with  
502 only climate variables and assuming unlimited dispersal – had as high, or higher, TSS than  
503 any of the alternative models that accounted for land use, dispersal or demography (Fig. 5). In  
504 contrast, species like *Accipiter nisus* were better modelled by the most complex METAPOP  
505 and DISPERSAL models without land use (Fig. 2). Similar results were found in a recent  
506 study that systematically examined model performance against complexity for families of  
507 ecological niche models (García-Callejas & Araújo, 2016), whereby properties of species  
508 ranges strongly influenced model performance (even more than model complexity).

509         The critical question is whether it is possible to classify (and predict) the  
510 circumstances in which different species are best predicted by different models. This is still  
511 an open question, but our results suggest that good estimates of dispersal dynamics and close  
512 approximations between future land use and species' occurrence will improve forecasts of  
513 species distributions. When there is scarce knowledge on a species dispersal dynamics, but  
514 their relationship between land use and occupancy is well understood for the model  
515 calibration period, and this relationship is unlikely to change greatly in space in the future,  
516 forecasts of species distributions will be maximised using simple ecological niche models  
517 with static land use masks. Conversely if species' dispersal dynamics are well documented,  
518 but the effect of land use on spatial colonisation patterns is unlikely to be static, forecasts of  
519 species' distributions will be maximised using a DISPERSAL model without land use. If  
520 robust estimates of population growth as well as dispersal constraints are available, and the  
521 model is to be used to estimate extinction risk as well as range movement, a METAPOP  
522 model should be used since the relationship between change in range area and extinction risk  
523 is often weak (Fordham *et al.*, 2012). The METAPOP model should be simulated with land

524 use, only if land use is not expected to vary, or if spatiotemporal change in land use can be  
525 accurately projected. Furthermore, by modelling spatiotemporal abundance, coupled niche-  
526 population models not only allow extinction risk to be directly quantified, but the cost  
527 effectiveness of regional conservation alternatives and demographically oriented management  
528 interventions to be tested (Fordham *et al.*, 2013a).

529 Our research shows that for many species of British breeding birds, ecological niche  
530 models can provide a good approximation of the magnitude (but not necessarily the direction)  
531 of climate driven changes in geographic extent. Therefore if the objective of the study is to  
532 identify species that are likely to experience large range contractions and expansions in the  
533 future (regardless of where these play out in space and time), simple ecological niche models  
534 can routinely provide as good if not better predictions than more complex models. Similarly,  
535 Rapacciuolo *et al.* (2012) used temporally independent records to show that ecological niche  
536 models did well at predicting observed changes in total range area despite failing to predict  
537 correctly specific range changes at the grid cell level.

#### 538 *Previous findings and limitations*

539 Previous studies have advocated the use of more complex range dynamics models that  
540 overcome some of the limitations of correlative ecological niche models by integrating  
541 demographic and physiological responses so that range shifts emerge from the interplay of  
542 relevant abiotic and biotic processes (Singer *et al.*, 2016). The use of more complex models  
543 to explore how changes in large-scale abundance distributions arise is leading to a more  
544 mechanistic understanding of the underlying processes of range dynamics (Lurgi *et al.*,  
545 2015). Although the methodological frameworks of dynamic range models have been  
546 developed, empirical tests and applications of these models are rare because demographic  
547 data and time series of local abundances remain scarce (Urban *et al.*, 2016).

548           Accordingly, Zurell *et al.* (2016) recently compared model types using simulated data.  
549 They concluded that under present-day climatic conditions, complex demographic models are  
550 only marginally better than simple correlative models. However, in rapidly changing  
551 climates, complex range dynamic models that account for dispersal and/or demography, are  
552 likely to provide better forecasts. When community processes were included in simulated  
553 benchmarking data, and models were tested under conditions that better approximate real  
554 world conditions, DISPERSAL type-models often proved most reliable. In our study, biotic  
555 interactions were not directly considered in model forecasts, yet real world benchmarking  
556 data also revealed good evidence for using more complex models to predict where occupancy  
557 status changed due to observed climate change. Our study inevitably focused on low levels of  
558 observed climate change in the UK over the last 40 years, which are small compared to what  
559 is forecast for the future (Fordham *et al.*, 2016 ). Therefore, caution must be shown when  
560 using our results to make generalisations regarding how well models of species range  
561 dynamics will do at predicting range movement for the twenty-first century and beyond,  
562 because a models ability to predict (limited) 20<sup>th</sup> century climate-driven range movement  
563 does not necessarily equate to better predictions in response to forecast (larger) climate  
564 exposure (Fordham *et al.*, 2016 , Rapacciuolo *et al.*, 2012). Nevertheless, the in silico  
565 findings by Zurell *et al.* (2016) that models with dispersal and/or demography provide better  
566 predictions as climate change intensifies, gives us some confidence that our results will hold  
567 true, even under more extreme climate change.

568           The most complex models in our study were scalar-based demography models, which  
569 can be useful for ecological assessments but can overestimate risk of extinction (Dunham *et al.*,  
570 2006). Further analysis should focus on testing more complex demographic models (e.g.,  
571 stage/age structured demographic models (Caswell, 2001); Bayesian models of source-sink  
572 dynamics (Schurr *et al.*, 2012)) and improving model parameterisation using Approximate

573 Bayesian Computing (ABC) techniques to calibrate metapopulation models (Rougier *et al.*,  
574 2015). These techniques offer the prospect of accumulative fine tuning of model parameters  
575 via the iterative re-casting of updated information in the prior distribution (van der Vaart *et*  
576 *al.*, 2015, Wells *et al.*, 2015). We suspect that our most complex (METAPOP) models would  
577 have provided even better predictions of species range dynamics if they captured life-history  
578 traits that permit population density to vary in different ways in response to key local spatial  
579 drivers (Csergő *et al.*, 2017), including dynamic land use change and recent conservation  
580 intervention.

581

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589

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778 **Table 1: Generalised linear model results for True Skill Score (TSS) and Area Under**  
 779 **the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve (AUC)**  
 780  
 781

Metric	GLM	LL	k	AICc	$\Delta AIC_c$	$\omega_i$	DEV
TSS	<i>dispersal:landuse</i>	-190.59	6	395.73	0.00	0.78	22.45
	<i>species</i>	-175.64	20	399.32	3.58	0.13	35.68
	<i>model:landuse</i>	-190.50	8	399.96	4.22	0.09	22.55
	<i>dispersal</i>	-203.99	3	416.14	20.41	0.00	8.32
	<i>model</i>	-203.98	4	418.21	22.48	0.00	8.34
	<i>landuse</i>	-209.82	2	425.72	29.99	0.00	1.39
	<i>null</i>	-210.94	1	425.91	30.18	0.00	0.00
AUC	<i>dispersal:landuse</i>	151.46	6	-288.38	0.00	0.89	23.81
	<i>model:landuse</i>	151.61	8	-284.27	4.11	0.01	23.96
	<i>species</i>	160.68	20	-273.32	15.06	0.00	32.11
	<i>dispersal</i>	130.04	3	-268.63	19.75	0.00	10.28
	<i>model</i>	138.39	4	-266.52	21.86	0.00	10.29
	<i>null</i>	129.70	1	-255.37	33.01	0.00	0.00
	<i>landuse</i>	130.04	2	-254.02	34.37	0.00	0.43

782

783

784 Log likelihood (LL), Akaike's information criterion corrected (AICc), number of parameters  
 785 (k), difference in AIC between the model with the lowest AIC ( $\Delta AIC_c$ ), AICc weights ( $\omega_i$ ),  
 786 percentage deviance explained (DEV). GLM predictors were *species* being modelled (n=20),  
 787 *model* (ENM\_ND, ENM\_UD, DISPERSAL, METAPOPOP), *dispersal* (no dispersal, unlimited  
 788 dispersal, dispersal function) and *land use* (present or absent in the model).

789

790

791 **Figure Captions**

792 **Fig. 1** Hierarchy of eight models used to predict species' ranges for British Breeding birds in  
793 2010 using 1970 training data. (i) Bioensembles was used to generate ecological niche  
794 models (ENM) with or without a land-use, assuming either unlimited or no dispersal, (ii)  
795 RAMAS was used to mechanistically simulate annual dispersal over the 40 year period using  
796 species specific dispersal constraints (Dispersal), (iii) RAMAS was used to simulate  
797 metapopulations as well as dispersal dynamics (Metapop). See Methods for further details.

798

799 **Fig. 2** Forecasts of range expansion vary between models. An example of where more  
800 complex models without land use are best at projecting range expansion. Maps are shown for  
801 observed and predicted range change between 1970 and 2010 for *Accipiter nisus*. ENM\_ND =  
802 climate with no dispersal; ENM\_ND\_LU = climate with no dispersal and land use; ENM\_UD  
803 = climate with full dispersal; ENM\_UD\_LU = climate with full dispersal and land use;  
804 Dispersal= Climate with a dispersal function; Dispersal\_LU= climate with a dispersal  
805 function and land use; Metapop = climate with a dispersal function and population model;  
806 Metapop\_LU = climate with a dispersal function and population model and land use. True  
807 Skill Score values for predictions of range change between 1970 and 2010 for *Accipiter nisus*  
808 are shown in Figure 5.

809

810 **Fig. 3** Forecasts of range contractions vary between models. An example of where more  
811 complex models without land use are best at projecting range contraction. Maps are shown  
812 for observed and predicted range change between 1970 and 2010 for *Parus montanus*.  
813 ENM\_ND = climate with no dispersal; ENM\_ND\_LU = climate with no dispersal and land  
814 use; ENM\_UD = climate with full dispersal; ENM\_UD\_LU = climate with full dispersal and  
815 land use; Dispersal= Climate with a dispersal function; Dispersal\_LU= climate with a

816 dispersal function and land use; Metapop = climate with a dispersal function and population  
817 model; Metapop\_LU = climate with a dispersal function and population model and land use.  
818 True Skill Score values for predictions of range change between 1970 and 2010 for *Parus*  
819 *montanus* are shown in Figure 5.

820

821 **Fig. 4:** Independent tests of model predictions for 20 species of British birds, showing the  
822 influence of model and land-use. Observed and predicted spatial patterns of species ranges  
823 are compared using True Skill Score (TSS) for three families of models: simple ecological  
824 niche models (ENMs), dispersal-linked niche models (Dispersal) and niche-population  
825 models (Metapop); each plotted with and without land-use (LU). Results for ENMs are  
826 shown assuming no dispersal (ND) and unlimited dispersal (UD).

827

828 **Fig. 5:** True Skill Score (TSS) for models independently validated using observed data on  
829 occurrence in 2010. Expanders represent the upper quartile for observed range movement (>  
830 9 % increase in range area between 1970 to 2010). Contractors represent the lower quartile (>  
831 13% decrease in range area between 1970 to 2010). ENM\_ND = climate with no dispersal;  
832 ENM\_ND\_LU = climate with no dispersal and land use; ENM\_UD = climate with full  
833 dispersal; ENM\_UD\_LU = climate with full dispersal and land use; Dispersal = Climate with  
834 a dispersal function; Dispersal\_LU = climate with a dispersal function and land use; Metapop  
835 = climate with a dispersal function and population model; Metapop\_LU = climate with a  
836 dispersal function and population model and land use.

837

838 **Fig. 6:** Absolute differences in observed and predicted percentage change in range area  
839 between 1970 and 2010 (%). Expanders represent the upper quartile for observed range  
840 movement (> 9 % increase in range area between 1970 to 2010). Contractors represent the

841 lower quartile (> 13% decrease in range area between 1970 to 2010). ENM\_ND = climate  
842 with no dispersal; ENM\_ND\_LU = climate with no dispersal and land use; ENM\_UD =  
843 climate with full dispersal; ENM\_UD\_LU = climate with full dispersal and land use;  
844 Dispersal = Climate with a dispersal function; Dispersal\_LU = climate with a dispersal  
845 function and land use; Metapop = climate with a dispersal function and population model;  
846 Metapop\_LU = climate with a dispersal function and population model and land use.  
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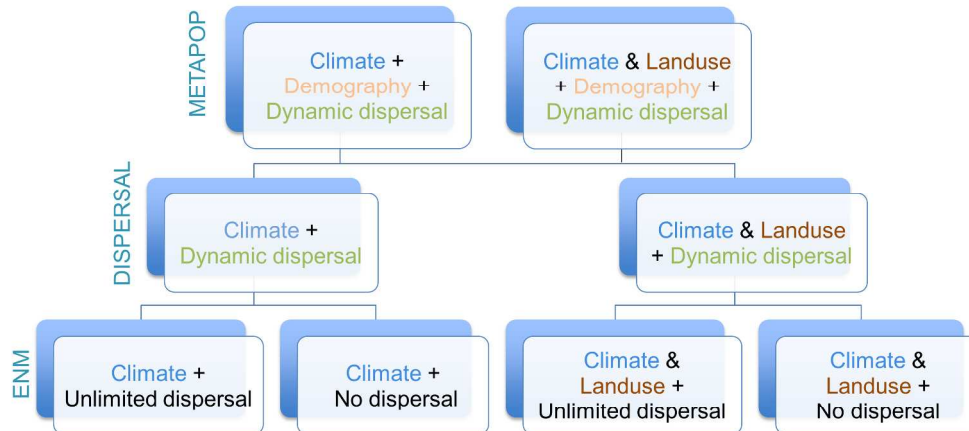
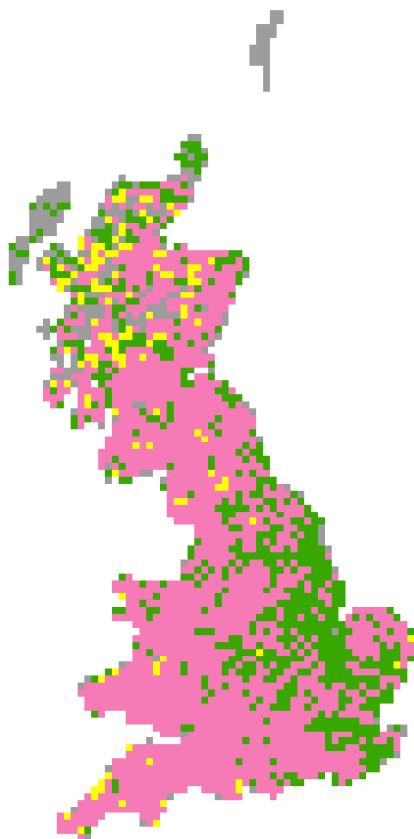


Fig. 1 Hierarchy of eight models used to predict species' ranges for British Breeding birds in 2010 using 1970 training data. (i) Bioensembles was used to generate ecological niche models (ENM) with or without a land-use, assuming either unlimited or no dispersal, (ii) RAMAS was used to mechanistically simulate annual dispersal over the 40 year period using species specific dispersal constraints (Dispersal), (iii) RAMAS was used to simulate metapopulations as well as dispersal dynamics (Metapop). See Methods for further details.

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Observed change

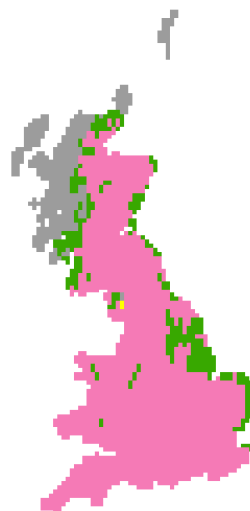
Range Dynamics 1970 - 2010



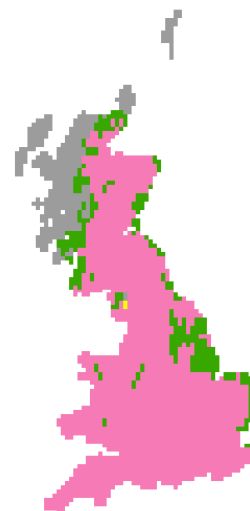
ENM\_ND



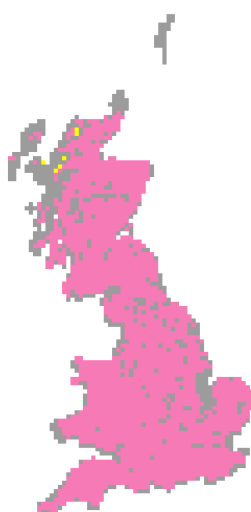
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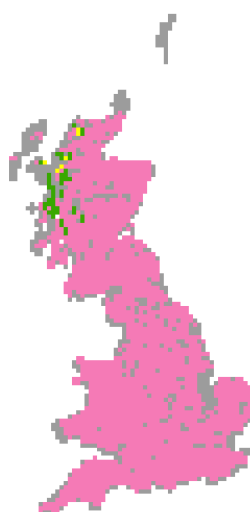
Dispersal



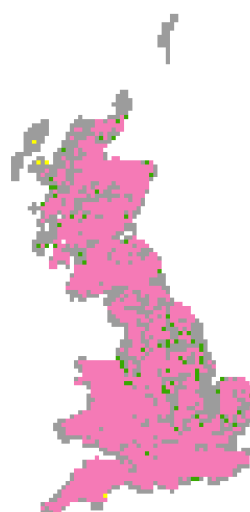
Metapop



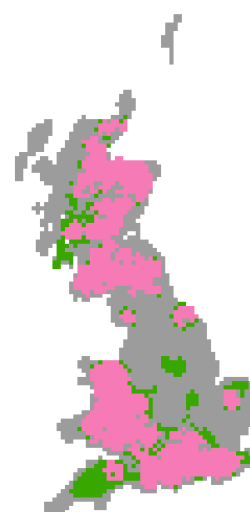
ENM\_ND\_LU



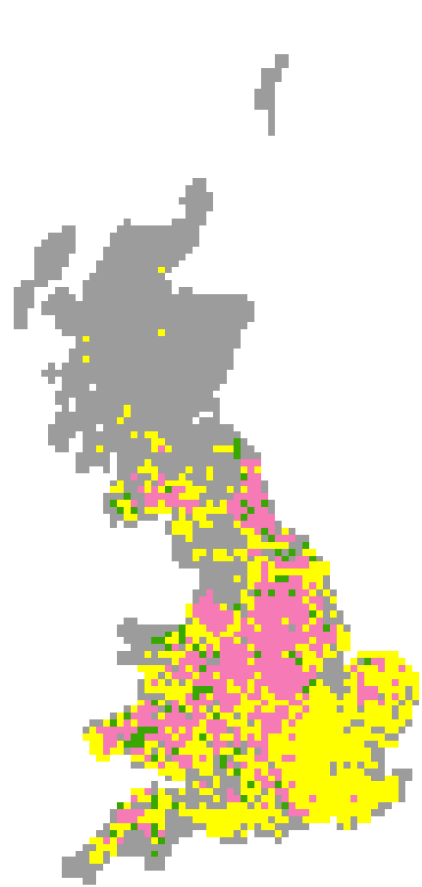
ENM\_UD\_LU



Dispersal\_LU







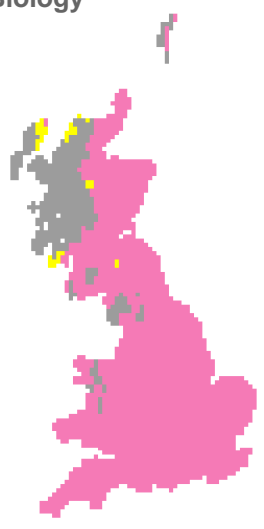
Metapop\_LU



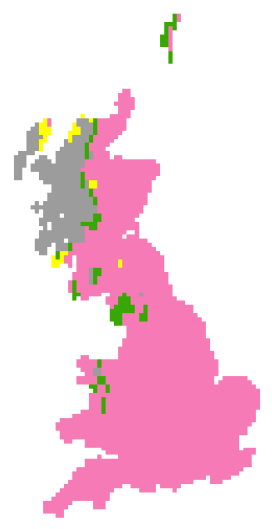
Observed change

Range Dynamics 1970 - 2010

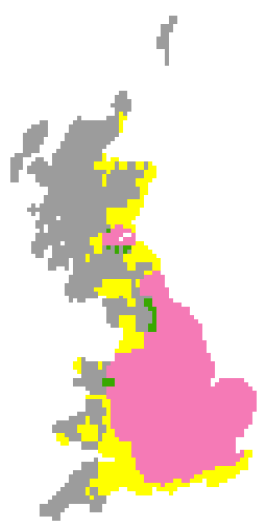
 Never occupied	 Contraction
 Stable	 Expansion



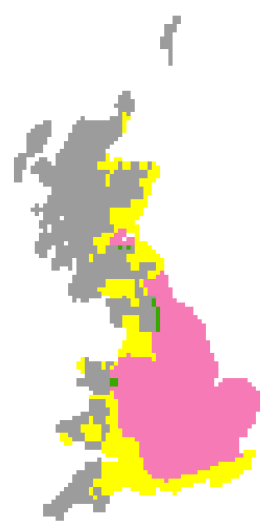
ENM\_ND



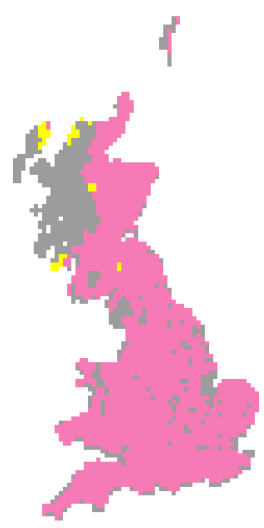
ENM\_UD



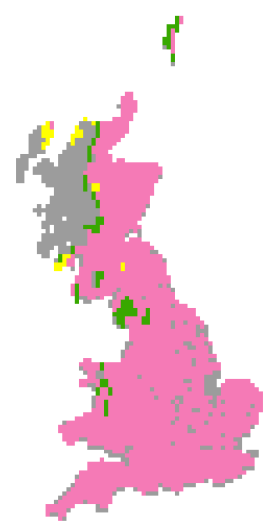
Dispersal



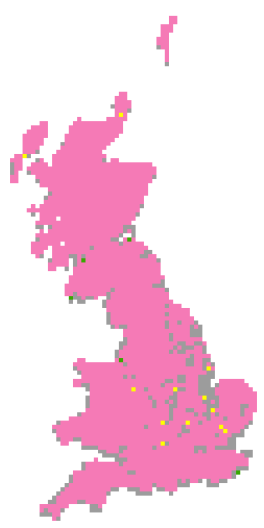
Metapop



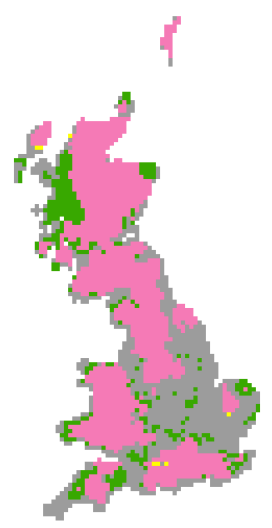
ENM\_ND\_LU



ENM\_UD\_LU



Dispersal\_LU



Metapop\_LU

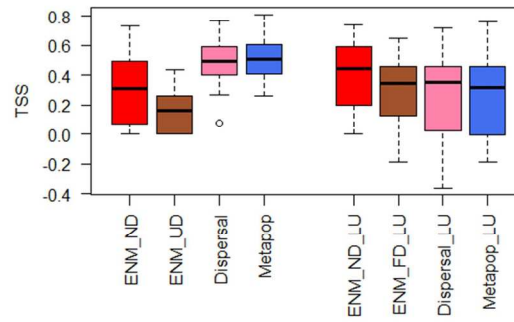


Fig. 4: Independent tests of model predictions for 20 species of British birds, showing the influence of model and land-use. Observed and predicted spatial patterns of species ranges are compared using True Skill Score (TSS) for three families of models: simple ecological niche models (ENMs), dispersal-linked niche models (Dispersal) and niche-population models (Metapop); each plotted with and without land-use (LU). Results for ENMs are shown assuming no dispersal (ND) and unlimited dispersal (UD).

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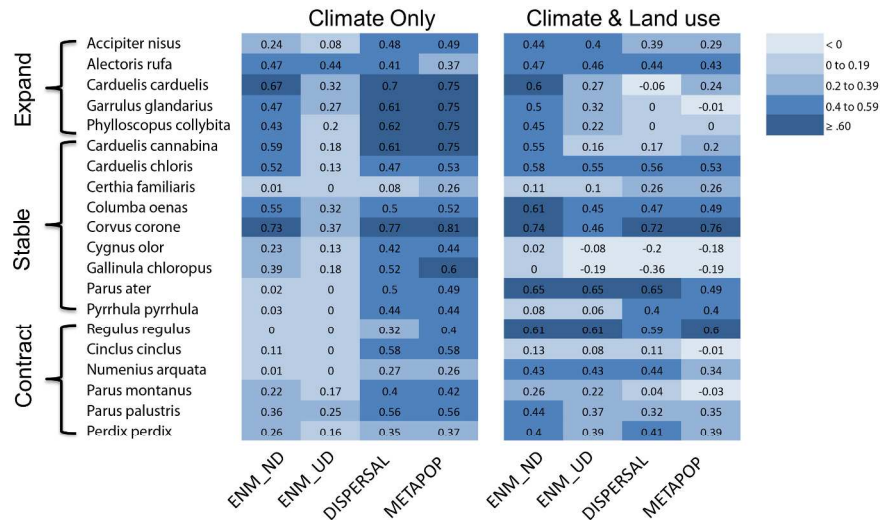


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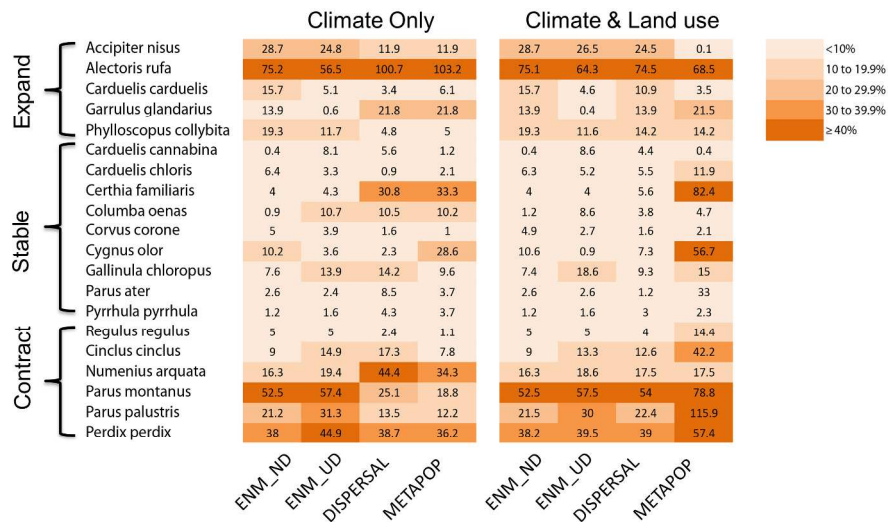


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