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Eastern Kentucky University  
United States of America**Date**  
18 april 2017**Reference**  
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Dear editor-in-chief,

On behalf of myself, S. Van Nieuland, R. Janssen and B. De Baets, I wish to submit the enclosed manuscript, entitled 'Environmental characteristics of hunting grounds of the Eurasian Eagle owl in Limburg, the Netherlands', as a candidate paper for publication in the Journal of Field Ornithology.

This paper studies the most important environmental characteristics of hunting grounds of the Eagle owl. For this purpose and to gain general insight into their habitat use, a GPS tracking study was conducted on six adult Eagle owls coming from three adjoining territories in 2010-2011. First, we relied on expert knowledge to reduce the size of the data set by removing the fixes that surely correspond to non-hunting behavior. As such, only the fixes linked with hunting grounds remained. Next, we investigated the relative importance of the prevailing land use and landscape features of these fixes. As such, we hope to provide managers with relevant insights into the environmental characteristics that are the most important for the hunting grounds of the Eagle owls.

This paper constitutes original work that has not yet been submitted for publication nor has it been published in whole or in part elsewhere. I attest to the fact that all authors listed on the title page have read the manuscript, agree with the validity and legitimacy of the data and its interpretation, and agree to its submission to the Journal of Field Ornithology.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Baetens Jan