

1 **Biodiversity within the city: Effects of land sharing and land sparing urban**
2 **development on avian diversity**

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23 **Running head:** Urban development style and avian diversity

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26

27 **Abstract**

28 Urbanization, one of the most extreme human-induced environmental changes, is
29 negatively affecting biodiversity worldwide, strongly suggesting that we should reconcile
30 urban development with conservation. Urbanization can follow two extreme types of
31 development within a continuum: land sharing (buildings mixed with dispersed green space)
32 or land sparing (buildings interspersed with green patches that concentrate biodiversity-
33 supporting vegetation). Recent local-scale studies indicate that biodiversity is typically
34 favored by land sparing. We investigated which of these two types of urbanization is
35 associated with a higher taxonomic (i.e. species richness), functional, and phylogenetic
36 diversity of birds. To do so, we collected information on breeding and wintering bird
37 assemblages in 45 land-sharing and 45 land-sparing areas in nine European cities, which
38 provide the first attempt to explore this question using a large geographical scale and
39 temporal replication. We found that land-sharing urban areas were significantly associated
40 with a higher taxonomic and functional diversity of birds during winter, but not during the
41 breeding season (with only a marginally significant effect for functional diversity). We found
42 no association between the type of urban development and phylogenetic diversity. Our
43 findings indicate that not all components of avian diversity are similarly affected by these two
44 means of urban planning and highlight the importance of integrating the temporal perspective
45 into this kind of studies. Our results also offer useful information to the current debate about
46 the trade-off between biodiversity conservation and human well-being in the context of land

47 sharing and sparing urban practices. In addition, we found that certain small-scale urban
48 landscape characteristics (i.e. few impervious surfaces, high water or tree cover) and human
49 practices (i.e. bird feeders or plants with berries) can help maintaining more diverse urban
50 bird assemblages. We provide specific suggestions for both policymakers and citizens that
51 hopefully will help to create more biodiversity-friendly cities in the future.

52

53 **1. Introduction**

54 Urban areas are growing disproportionately faster than any other form of land cover on
55 our planet (United Nations, 2015) with future predictions estimating a global increase by
56 200% by 2030 to accommodate the increasing urban human population (Fragkias et al.,
57 2013). This human-induced landscape change, known as urbanization, is one of the most
58 extreme anthropogenic impacts on the Earth's ecosystems (Foley et al., 2005; Groom et al.,
59 2006). Urban land-cover is associated with important changes in natural habitat structure and
60 ecosystem functioning (Grimm et al., 2008; Gaston, 2010; Forman, 2014), but also with a
61 significant global reduction in biodiversity (Ibáñez-Álamo et al., 2017; McKinney, 2008;
62 Newbold et al., 2015) that is expected to increase even more in the near future (Seto et al.,
63 2012). Therefore, there is an urgent need to reconcile urban development with biodiversity
64 conservation as recently recognized by the United Nations in its World Cities Report (United
65 Nations, 2016).

66 Urban areas can be developed in many different ways, but generally fall into a land-
67 sharing or land-sparing model of development (Lin and Fuller, 2013). Land-sharing urban
68 areas are typically associated with extensive urban development and sprawl (e.g. single
69 family houses) and they are characterized by low-density housing and human populations as
70 well as with small and fragmented green areas usually in the form of backyards and street
71 vegetation. On the other hand, land-sparing urban areas are typically associated with urban

72 intensification (e.g. multi-story buildings) and they are characterized by high-density human
73 populations and housing interspersed by large green patches (i.e. forest remnants or, more
74 frequently, large urban parks) (Lin and Fuller, 2013; Soga et al., 2014). This dichotomy is
75 somewhat arbitrary, as it emphasizes the endpoints of a continuum rather than its gradual
76 nature (Finch et al., 2019; Kremen, 2015), but this framework is of critical importance in the
77 context of urban ecosystem conservation (Lin and Fuller, 2013; Norton et al., 2016; Stott et
78 al., 2015). Consequently, this topic has recently received increasing attention by the scientific
79 community (e.g. Sushinsky et al., 2013; Soga et al., 2014, 2015; Collas et al., 2017;
80 Villaseñor et al., 2017) although habitat fragmentation has been known to be important for
81 biodiversity also within urban areas for a longer time (Fahrig, 2003; Fernández-Juricic and
82 Jokimäki, 2001). The first study to apply the land-sharing/sparing framework into an urban
83 context investigated their effect on biodiversity in the city of Brisbane (Australia) and found
84 that the land-sparing type of development outperformed its land-sharing alternative, retaining
85 richer urban bird assemblages during the breeding season (Sushinsky et al., 2013). Additional
86 local studies modeling the response of other taxa (i.e. trees and mammals) to future urban
87 scenarios also found evidence indicating larger benefits associated with the land-sparing
88 strategy (Caryl et al., 2016; Collas et al., 2017; Villaseñor et al., 2017). Furthermore, Soga et
89 al. (2014) determined that in the city of Tokyo land sparing rather than land sharing allowed a
90 higher population size of ground beetles and butterflies when intensity of urbanization was
91 high. However, this relationship changed under a lower level of urbanization, showing that
92 ground beetles were favored by land sparing but butterflies by land sharing. These pioneering
93 studies have provided useful information regarding the debate about how to develop more
94 biodiversity-friendly cities in the future, but they are local studies temporally restricted (e.g.
95 breeding season) that prevent generalization of results. In order to advance this debate, we

96 urgently need spatially and temporally replicated analyses (Lin and Fuller, 2013; Stott et al.,
97 2015; Sushinsky et al., 2013).

98 Moreover, biodiversity refers to variation at all levels of biological organization and
99 includes three main elements (genetic, ecological and organismal diversity) (Gaston and
100 Spicer, 2004). Species richness is the most commonly used measure of biodiversity, but it has
101 important restrictions to capture certain components of biodiversity such as those associated
102 with evolutionary history or morphological variation (Gaston and Spicer, 2004; Magurran,
103 2004; Magurran and McGill, 2011). Recent trends in biodiversity studies strongly
104 recommend the use of multiple measures to investigate several components of biodiversity
105 simultaneously because they might be affected differently by the same process (Devictor et
106 al., 2010; Hanspach et al., 2015; Lee and Martin, 2017; Morelli et al., 2017a, 2017b). In
107 addition to measures of taxonomic diversity (e.g. species richness), these studies suggest
108 using indicators of functional and phylogenetic diversity that offer information on the
109 different functional traits/roles and evolutionary history of the species of a community.
110 However, despite recent recommendations in nature conservation optimization encouraging
111 the use of these additional diversity measures (Monnet et al., 2014; Winter et al., 2012),
112 previous studies investigating the land-sparing/sharing debate focused exclusively on
113 taxonomic diversity (e.g. Sushinsky et al., 2013; Soga et al., 2014; Villaseñor et al., 2017).
114 The study of these three components of biodiversity is even more important in the urban
115 context given the different association that they show with urbanization at the global scale,
116 with cities holding overall significantly lower taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity (e.g.
117 McKinney, 2008; Ibáñez-Álamo et al., 2017; Sol et al., 2017), but higher functional diversity
118 (Oliveira Hagen et al., 2017). Studies investigating the effect of these two types of urban
119 development on taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic diversity will therefore provide an

120 extremely interesting new perspective on the topic, potentially showing unknown effects that
121 might lead to additional conservation recommendations.

122 Here, using birds and a continental spatial scale approach in two different seasons, we
123 (1) investigated whether land-sharing urban areas are associated with lower biodiversity
124 measures (taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic diversity) than land-sparing urban areas.
125 The prediction regarding taxonomic diversity is based on previous local studies (see above).
126 No clear prediction regarding the other two components of biodiversity can be made given
127 the lack of previous information and studies that found contrasting effects for these different
128 components using a similar geographical scale (e.g. Morelli et al., 2016). We also (2)
129 explored the temporal consistency in results analyzing data from two different seasons
130 (breeding and wintering seasons). To our knowledge, this temporal perspective has not been
131 investigated so far in the land-sharing/sparing context, despite being crucial for designing
132 effective conservation plans to help guide the construction of cities (Stott et al., 2015).
133 Murgui (2010) found seasonal variation in urban bird assemblages in the city of Valencia
134 (Spain), with a more structured distribution of species during the breeding season than in
135 other seasons. We predict then higher differences in diversity for the breeding than the
136 wintering season. Finally, to provide more specific conservation recommendations for city
137 planners and policymakers, we (3) studied the effect of local scale characteristics of cities
138 (e.g. built cover, vegetation structure or presence of bird feeders) that determine richer
139 taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic avian communities in each season. To our
140 knowledge, there is only one local scale study that has investigated this question using
141 proxies for all three major components of biodiversity for the specific case of Beijing's parks
142 (China) (Morelli et al., 2017a), which highlight the novelty of this last objective. This
143 approach complements classical analyses based on building density alone, taking into account
144 the potential role of different configurations of the urban landscape as well as the influence of

145 different local factors (e.g. type of green space, human activities...) in towns and cities. We
146 have used birds as our model group because they are key components of ecosystems
147 (Sekercioglu, 2006), good bioindicators for other taxa (Rodrigues et al., 2007), with a widely
148 validated phylogeny (Jetz et al., 2012; Prum et al., 2015) and are well-studied within the
149 urban ecology context (Gil and Brumm, 2014; Lepczyk and Warren, 2012; Marzluff et al.,
150 2001).

151

152 **2. Methods**

153 *2.1. Study area and classification of urban areas*

154 We assessed bird assemblages in nine cities from six different European countries
155 encompassing large latitudinal variation from Granada (latitude 37.2° N) in Southern Spain to
156 Rovaniemi (latitude 66.5° N), northern Finland (Fig. 1). In each city we selected 10 different
157 500 m x 500 m squares, half of them with a land-sharing urban development and the other
158 half corresponding with land-sparing urban areas (Fig. 1). Individual squares were separated
159 by a mean minimum distance of 570 (\pm 65 m SD). The squares within each city were initially
160 assigned to either one or another type by visual inspection of satellite images available on
161 Google Earth. Land-sharing squares consisted in areas with low-density housing (i.e. single-
162 family houses) and fragmented green areas, while land-sparing squares corresponded with
163 high-density housing areas (i.e. multi-storey buildings), and the majority (>50%) of its green
164 surfaces aggregated into a single patch. We made no distinction on whether the green space
165 was fully natural (i.e. forest remnants) or partially managed (i.e. parks). Given the known
166 positive relationship between the size of green areas and animal biodiversity (including birds)
167 in urban landscapes (Beninde et al., 2015), every land-sharing square in a given city was
168 paired with another land-sparing square of the same city holding a similar overall green area.

169 This procedure allowed us to test for the effect of urban landscape organization avoiding a
170 potential bias associated with the size of green areas.

171 We confirmed the initial assignment of each square to one of two urban development
172 styles with a new land sharing-sparing index. Using the same satellite images and QGIS 2.18,
173 we divided each 500 m x 500 m square into 100 cells (50 x 50 m each) and estimated the
174 percentage of green and built surface for each cell (to the nearest 10%). This information was
175 used to calculate the following variables for each 500 m x 500 m square: (1) Percentage of
176 high vegetation cells (those with more than 50% green area) in a single patch (contiguous
177 cells), (2) number of green patches (a green patch is defined as having at least one high
178 vegetation cell), (3) percentage of built cells of all vegetated cells, (4) percentage of only
179 vegetated cells of all vegetated cells, and (5) number of cells with vegetated surfaces.
180 Variables 1 and 2 provide information on the land-sharing/sparing development style at the
181 500 m x 500 m square level with high values of variable 1 associated with land-sparing urban
182 areas (i.e. vegetation in a single patch), while high values of variable 2 are associated with
183 land-sharing urban areas (i.e. vegetation distributed into many patches). Variables 3 and 4
184 provide information on the within-cell land-sharing or land-sparing urban development,
185 respectively, and variable 5 estimates the overall amount of vegetation in the square. With
186 these five variables, we run a principal component analysis (PCA) using the SPSS 25.0
187 package. The first axis (PC1), that explained 53.4% of the total variation, was used as the
188 land sharing-sparing index (Table S1). Overall, positive values of this index were associated
189 with land-sparing squares while negative values indicated land-sharing squares. We found
190 significant differences in the land sharing-sparing index between the initially classified land-
191 sharing and land-sparing squares ($F = 64.04$, $df = 1, 88$, $p < 0.0001$; city as random factor),
192 confirming the suitability of our initial classification. The second axis (PC2) explained
193 21.44% of the total variation and was negatively associated with the number of vegetated

194 cells in the square (Table S1). It was then an inverse measure of the overall amount of
195 vegetation and was independent of the land sharing-sparing index. This fact confirmed the
196 paired design of our study and allowed to analyze the independent effects of urban landscape
197 organization and size of green areas on bird diversity.

198 Finally, we also calculated a commonly used urbanization index for each 500 m x 500
199 m square (Liker et al., 2008) to confirm that land-sharing and land-sparing areas did not
200 differ in their urbanization level (i.e. green or built surfaces). A general mixed model
201 including land-sharing/sparing type as fixed factor and city as a random factor showed that
202 the urbanization index in land-sharing (mean \pm SE = -0.17 ± 0.26) and sparing squares (0.17
203 ± 0.32) did not differ significantly ($F = 1.01$, $df = 1, 88$, $p = 0.320$). This result was expected
204 due to the paired selection of land-sharing and sparing squares according to their green cover,
205 and it provided confidence that the potential results associated with our study were strictly
206 related to the landscape organization of urban features rather than differences in the intensity
207 of urbanization.

208 2.2. *Bird data collection*

209 Data on bird species were collected using standardized point counts (Bibby et al.,
210 1992), carried out during the 2016 breeding season (April-June) and the following wintering
211 season (December-February). Point counts provide reliable estimates of relative population
212 density (Blondel et al., 1970), constituting a standardized method in ecology (Bibby et al.,
213 1992) used extensively for monitoring bird populations across Europe (Voříšek et al., 2008).
214 Within each 500 m x 500 m square, 6-7 point counts were randomly selected with a
215 minimum of 100 m distance between them or the border of the square to avoid counting the
216 same individual twice. The location of all point counts was recorded with GPS to quantify
217 birds at the same location both during the breeding and wintering season. We detected birds

218 by sight and sound for 5 min in each point count. Point counts were only carried out during
219 the morning (up to 3 hours after local sunrise) and under favourable weather conditions. We
220 paid special attention to avoid double-counts of the same individual by moving quickly from
221 point to point and by excluding birds that were counted in previous point counts (e.g. clearly
222 conspicuous individuals easily seen or heard). To capture potential temporal changes in bird
223 assemblages within a season (e.g. due to early and late breeders), we carried out two surveys
224 (separated by a month) in each season. We considered all species detected in both surveys for
225 our analyses. We also registered specific landscape characteristics associated with each point
226 count by noting the percentage (to the nearest 10%) of cover with buildings and paved
227 surfaces (i.e. roads), water, vegetation (trees, bushes and grass), and snow (in winter), within
228 a distance of 50 m of each point count (Díaz et al., 2013). In addition, we collected data on
229 the presence of bird feeders and vegetation with berries in winter as potential sources of food
230 for birds. Finally, we counted the number of pedestrians and mammals (e.g. squirrels, cats,
231 dogs) encountered within a distance of 50 m of each point count while assessing birds.
232 Mammals in general, and particularly these species increase their abundance in urban habitats
233 and can have important implications for bird assemblages (Bonnington et al., 2013; Jokimäki
234 et al., 2017; Sims et al., 2008).

235 *2.3. Avian diversity and community metrics*

236 For each season, we estimated three different measures of biodiversity based on bird
237 communities: (1) Bird species richness (BSR) was used as a measure of taxonomic diversity
238 (Magurran, 2004). BSR was calculated as the maximum number of recorded bird species at
239 each sampling site (point count) considering the two surveys within each season. The
240 biodiversity metrics based on species-trait approaches focused on functional aspects of
241 biodiversity (functional diversity metrics), constitute an additional tool to the traditional

242 taxonomic approach (de Bello et al., 2010). Therefore, we used (2) Rao's quadratic entropy
243 (Rao's Q) as a measure of the functional diversity of bird communities. Rao's Q is a measure
244 of functional diversity in a community based on multiple traits, and is a measure not
245 mathematically constrained to be positively correlated with species richness (Zoltan, 2005).
246 The Rao's Q was calculated using the avian niche traits provided in Pearman et al. (2014),
247 which are based on bird traits related to their feeding and breeding ecology. The trait table
248 consisted of 53 variables that describe the niche of each bird species, including variables
249 across body mass, food types (13 variables), behavior used for acquiring food (9 variables),
250 substrate from which food was taken (9 variables), period of day during which a species
251 foraged actively (3 variables), and nesting habitats (18 variables) (Pearman et al., 2014). All
252 variables except the body mass were binomial (scored as either 0 or 1). Finally, to explore
253 changes in bird communities in terms of phylogenetic diversity, we used (3) the evolutionary
254 distinctiveness (ED) score as a measure of species uniqueness (Jetz et al., 2014). The ED
255 score for each species is calculated by dividing the total phylogenetic diversity of a clade
256 amongst its members (Isaac et al., 2007; "www.edgeofexistence.org" 2015). Then, using the
257 ED score for each bird species present in a community, we calculated the community
258 evolutionary distinctiveness (CED) of the community as the mean ED for the entire
259 assemblage (Ibáñez-Álamo et al., 2017; Morelli et al., 2016; Tucker et al., 2016).

260 *2.4. Statistical analyses*

261 To check for spatial autocorrelation issues in the dataset, we performed a Mantel test
262 (Legendre and Fortin, 2010; Mantel, 1967), based on a matrix with geographic distance
263 among points and a matrix of differences in bird species richness, functional diversity and
264 community evolutionary distinctiveness among points, applying Monte Carlo permutations
265 with 9999 randomizations (Oksanen et al., 2016). Sampling sites were treated as statistically

266 independent observations because the value of spatial autocorrelation was not significant for
267 all tests (e.g. for species richness: $r_M = 0.0047$, 9999 randomizations, $p = 0.554$). A
268 preliminary exploration of variables was done by using a Principal Component Analysis
269 (PCA), which is appropriate for detecting potential multicollinearity issues, and then to select
270 the most adequate and less redundant variables for modelling procedures (Janžekovič and
271 Novak, 2012).

272 We used Generalized Linear Mixed Models (GLMMs) to study the patterns of bird
273 species richness, functional diversity (Rao's Q) and community evolutionary distinctiveness
274 (CED) in relation to land-sharing and land-sparing urban development, amount of green
275 areas, latitude, point-count-level landscape characteristics, presence of bird feeders, berries,
276 and the average number of pedestrians and mammals (cats, dogs, squirrels...) modelled as
277 predictors. We decided to include latitude as a geographical predictor because it could be
278 related to large-scale changes in biodiversity (Mannion et al., 2014; Morelli et al., 2016).
279 Potential interactive effects of latitude, urban development mode and amount of vegetation
280 on bird diversity (Beninde et al., 2015; Díaz et al., 1998) were tested by the corresponding
281 two-way interactions. City ($n = 9$) was included as a random factor to account for possible
282 consistent differences among cities, and square pair (nested in city) to account for the paired
283 design of the study. The model using bird species richness as response variable was fitted
284 assuming a Poisson distribution after having explored the variable distribution as suggested in
285 Box and Cox (1964). Models were run separately for the breeding or wintering seasons using
286 the SPSS 25.0 package. Full models were tested, and effect sizes of terms with $p < 0.10$ were
287 computed from t statistics following Becker (1999).

288

289 **3. Results**

290 In total, we detected 119 bird species in 593 point counts carried out during the
291 breeding season and 73 bird species in 322 point counts performed during the wintering
292 season. Only three species were identified as introduced (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*, *Myiopsitta*
293 *monachus* and *Phasianus colchicus*), which represented a very small proportion of bird
294 assemblages (2.4%). All squares were visited both seasons, although the number of census
295 points differed among seasons for logistic reasons (e.g. harsh climate, snow cover...). The list
296 of all bird species recorded in this study for both urban development styles, with their ED
297 score, is provided in the Electronic Supplementary Material (Table S3).

298 The urban development style was significantly and negatively associated with
299 functional and, to a lesser extent, taxonomic diversity, especially in winter (Fig. 2; Table S2).
300 Our results indicated that land-sharing urban areas partially supported more diverse bird
301 communities, although the difference was on average small (Fig. 3). The amount of
302 vegetation at the square level had a consistent positive effect on bird diversity that was
303 additive to the effect of the urban development style (Fig. 2). There were no latitudinal trends
304 in bird diversity, although latitude modulated the positive effect of vegetation on taxonomic
305 and phylogenetic diversity, especially in winter (Fig. 2). Positive effects of vegetation were
306 higher at higher latitudes. Effect sizes of square-level (landscape) traits ranged from 7 to 19%
307 (Fig. 2, Table S2).

308 Regarding small-scale (local) predictors, bird species richness during the breeding
309 season was positively associated with bushes and water as well as with the abundance of
310 mammals, but negatively associated with the coverage of built surfaces and the density of
311 pedestrians (Fig. 2). The functional diversity metric (Rao's Q) was only significantly
312 explained by the presence of water and, to a lesser extent, grass. In contrast, phylogenetic
313 diversity (CED) was positively associated with the coverage of trees but negatively correlated

314 with the coverage of built areas (Fig. 2). During the wintering season, all diversity metrics
315 were positively associated with the presence of bird feeders and bushes with berries, and with
316 local abundance of mammals. Tree cover also increased taxonomic diversity, which was in
317 turn negatively associated with the percentage of built areas (Table 2). Functional diversity
318 was negatively associated to bushes and positively to water and pedestrians, whereas the
319 CED of winter bird communities was significantly and negatively associated with the tree
320 and bush cover (Fig. 2). Effect sizes for these associations ranged between 9 and 20%, with a
321 peak 35% effect size of bird feeders on winter bird species richness (Fig. 2, Table S2).

322

323 **4. Discussion**

324 *4.1. Land sharing versus land sparing city development*

325 Our study using for the first time spatial (9 cities), temporal (2 seasons) and multiple
326 biodiversity measurements (taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic metrics) suggests that the
327 urban development style (land sharing or sparing) can be relevant for the conservation of
328 avian biodiversity in European urban environments. Although the urban development style
329 seems to be of little importance during the breeding season (i.e. only a marginally significant
330 effect for functional diversity), it is important during winter (i.e. significant effects for
331 taxonomic and functional diversity), which highlights the relevance of integrating a temporal
332 component to study urban biodiversity. This result does not fit our prediction that avian
333 biodiversity will show larger differences associated with urban development style in the
334 breeding than in the wintering season. Murgui's study (2010) on which we have based our
335 prediction investigated only urban parks while ours used a wider variety of urban habitats.
336 Thus it is possible that his findings only apply to urban parks and not to the city as a whole.

337 Alternatively, our contrasting findings could be due to local (i.e. city of Valencia) versus
338 continental (i.e. 9 European cities) effects.

339 Our results indicated that, in winter, areas with a land sharing model of urban
340 development showed a significantly higher species richness and Rao's Q values than those
341 organized according to a land sparing model. However, it is still possible that certain
342 important species (e.g. area-sensitive species) could benefit from large green patches
343 associated to land-sparing urban areas which suggest caution with our conclusions. Our
344 results fit with those obtained in a long-term study from northern Finland showing higher
345 winter bird assemblages in private-house (shared) areas compared with multistory-building
346 (spared) areas (Jokimäki and Kaisanlahti-Jokimäki, 2012). A similar pattern was observed for
347 butterflies in the city of Tokyo (Japan) (Soga et al., 2014) and trees of the city of Cambridge
348 (UK) (Collas et al., 2017), suggesting that other animals and plants might follow similar
349 patterns. However, they contrasted with our initial prediction based on other local findings
350 for birds (Sushinsky et al., 2013). For example, although avian bird communities in the city
351 of Brisbane (Australia) are negatively affected by any form of urbanization, they seem to be
352 less impacted by a land-sparing model (Sushinsky et al., 2013). The contrasting findings
353 between that and our study could be explained by (i) specific features of the city of Brisbane
354 that prevent its generalization; (ii) regional differences in urbanization between Australia
355 (following an extensive urban design) and Europe (where compact –land sparing– cities are
356 more common) (Stott et al., 2015); (iii) differences in the duration of urbanization (more
357 recent in Australia); (iv) differences in the period of study (breeding vs winter); or even (v)
358 different responses of Australian and European regional bird assemblages to each urban
359 development style. Further studies comparing different continents/bioregions simultaneously
360 will provide critical information on this aspect. The differences from other taxonomic groups
361 such as mammals or ground beetles that also seem to benefit from land sparing (Caryl et al.,

2016; Soga et al., 2014; Villaseñor et al., 2017) could be due to the above-mentioned explanations or taxonomic-specific differences. Alternatively, previous studies supporting land sparing as the best strategy assumed (modeled) that the green space associated with this practice is of adequate quality for the focal assemblage (i.e. forest remnants (Collas et al., 2017)), which might not be the case in our dataset as it also includes managed parks and gardens as spared green areas, therefore also potentially explaining inconsistency of findings.

Two non-mutually exclusive hypotheses could explain the association of a higher avian taxonomic diversity with land-sharing urban areas. First, it has been suggested that species richness peaks at intermediate levels of disturbance (i.e. suburban areas) in an urban gradient (Callaghan et al., 2019; Jokimäki and Suhonen, 1993; Luck and Smallbone, 2010; Tratalos et al., 2007). This explanation is based on the intermediate disturbance hypothesis that predicts higher levels of diversity at intermediate levels of disturbance due to the higher number of habitats available (Battisti et al., 2016; Connell, 1978). In contrast with land-sparing urban areas, land-sharing areas generally correspond with those offering a higher number of habitats providing support for this possibility. This hypothesis however does not provide a clear explanation for the differences between spring and winter. Second, human practices in land-sharing urban areas favoring certain avian species (e.g. bird feeders) could help to retain additional species promoting higher species richness in comparison with land-sparing areas (Jokimäki and Kaisanlahti-Jokimäki, 2012). For instance, housing density is the main driver explaining bird feeding practices in the UK (Fuller et al., 2008), and it seems that only people with their own backyards feed birds in North America (Horn and Johansen, 2013). Our data also point in the same direction as we found a significantly higher number of bird feeders in land-sharing areas (average = 0.38) compared with land-sparing areas (0.08; $W = 44741$, $P < 0.0001$), which supported this assumption. Furthermore, our results suggest that bird feeders are relatively important during winter for all biodiversity measures but not

387 during the breeding season, which could explain the observed differences between these two
388 time periods. More detailed studies in order to detect differences in human practices in each
389 urban development style will certainly help to better understand patterns of urban biodiversity
390 and implement future conservation practices.

391 Interestingly, only the taxonomic and functional diversity metrics showed significant
392 differences between land sharing and sparing urbanization styles. No differences were found
393 regarding phylogenetic diversity for breeding or wintering bird communities. These would
394 indicate that while the additional bird species in land-sharing urban areas compared to land-
395 sparing areas imply additional functions for the bird assemblage, they are probably achieved
396 by the incorporation of phylogenetically close species. These findings also provide several
397 additional important pieces of information. Firstly, these results are in line with previous
398 studies showing that human-induced impacts can differentially affect these three components
399 of biodiversity (e.g. Knapp et al., 2008; Devictor et al., 2010; Hanspach et al., 2015; Battisti
400 et al., 2016; Morelli et al., 2016, 2017a) and are consistent with recent recommendations in
401 nature conservation optimization in favor of using multiple complementary biodiversity
402 metrics (Monnet et al., 2014; Winter et al., 2012). Secondly, considering that cities are
403 associated with changes in phylogenetic and functional diversity of bird and plant
404 assemblages at a regional and global scale level (Čeplová et al., 2015; Ibáñez-Álamo et al.,
405 2017; Morelli et al., 2016; Sol et al., 2017), it seems that these two alternative urban
406 development styles do not alter the phylogenetic composition of European bird assemblages
407 (Fig. 3). This suggests that urbanizing following a land sharing or sparing urban development
408 style does not help to reconcile urbanization with this component of biodiversity (i.e.
409 phylogenetic diversity).

410 Urbanization should accommodate both environmental and human needs for well-
411 being (Gaston, 2010). However, some scientists have highlighted the potential conflict of
412 these two aspects regarding the best way to build cities in the future (Soga et al., 2015;
413 Sushinsky et al., 2013). This is based on previous studies showing that land sparing seems to
414 maximize urban biodiversity (Caryl et al., 2016; Soga et al., 2014; Villaseñor et al., 2017),
415 while human well-being is mostly favored by a land sharing urban development model (Soga
416 et al., 2015; Stott et al., 2015). This dilemma was not supported by our data, which emphasize
417 land sharing as the best strategy for retaining biodiversity in winter and no differences during
418 the breeding season. However, the debate of whether we should develop our cities following
419 a land sharing or land sparing model is still open because several other ecosystem services
420 seem to be maximized by the latter (Stott et al., 2015). Multi-city comparisons in this context
421 are typically lacking (Ziter, 2016). In addition, land sharing is usually associated with a larger
422 altered area typical of extensive urbanization, urban sprawling or sprinkling which are known
423 for their negative impacts in ecosystem function and structure (Romano et al., 2019; Salvati,
424 2014). It is thus still possible that the per capita impact is higher than that associated with
425 land sparing if a larger proportion of the natural habitat surrounding the city is urbanized (Lin
426 and Fuller, 2013; Norton et al., 2016).

427 *4.2. Urban features promoting avian biodiversity*

428 At the local level, we found that areas with a higher built coverage were associated
429 with lower levels of bird species richness and evolutionary distinctiveness during breeding,
430 and also in winter for the former. These results match those of previous studies finding
431 support for the species-area relationship in urban environments by which species richness of
432 different taxa are reduced in cities because of the replacement of suitable habitat (i.e.
433 vegetation) by impervious surfaces (Beninde et al., 2015; McKinney, 2008) or the subsequent

434 reduction in size of vegetated patches (Arca et al., 2012). The negative association between
435 phylogenetic diversity and built cover in the breeding season might suggest that only a few
436 closely related bird species are able to reproduce in areas with many sealed surfaces. The
437 proportion of area covered by water was another important small-scale feature that, in this
438 case, was positively associated with taxonomic (only in the breeding season) and functional
439 diversity (both seasons) of urban bird assemblages. Water cover has previously been linked to
440 higher bird species richness at the point-count level in the parks of Beijing (Morelli et al.,
441 2017a), and a recent meta-analysis also found that it favors intra-urban diversity of several
442 taxa, including birds (Beninde et al., 2015), supporting the generality of our findings. Water
443 might provide extra food and nesting opportunities, hence explaining the higher values of
444 Rao's Q, ultimately promoting the presence of additional bird species in the area. Vegetation
445 variables significantly explained taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic diversity metrics
446 both at the local (50 m radius circles) and landscape level (500 m x 500 m squares)
447 confirming previous findings that support the relevance of these factors for avian diversity
448 (Beninde et al., 2015 and references therein). Overall, vegetation variables were positively
449 associated with avian diversity at both scales (Fig. 2), the only exception being bush cover
450 and functional diversity in winter at the local level. In addition, latitude seems to mediate the
451 positive association of vegetation cover with taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity at the
452 landscape level. Squares with the same amount of green areas hold a higher number of bird
453 species and evolutionary distinctiveness levels toward the north, following a similar pattern
454 detected in other non-urban contexts (Brotons et al., 2018; Díaz et al., 1998).

455 The presence of food sources (bird feeders and berries) during winter seem to be
456 important in explaining part of the variation in all components of avian diversity and could be
457 considered keystone structures sensu Tews et al. (2004) in this season. This result matches
458 previous findings (e.g. Jokimäki & Suhonen, 1998; Suhonen & Jokimäki, 2015) and was

459 expected as the winter is an energetically demanding period (Newton, 1998; Suhonen et al.,
460 2009) during which birds are known to concentrate near food sources such as those presented
461 by bird feeders (Tryjanowski et al., 2015). We also found a positive association between
462 mammals and avian diversity, which was particularly strong in winter. It is possible that
463 urban mammals are more easily detected in winter due to an increase in their activity or,
464 alternatively, that highly diverse urban areas in birds (e.g. green areas) attract also other
465 animals like mammals. For example, red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) are also attracted to bird
466 feeders (Jokimäki et al., 2017), which are more common in land-sharing urban areas (see
467 above). The differences between winter and breeding in this association could also be related
468 to the important role that some of these mammals (e.g. cats) play as predators of avian nests
469 (Bonnington et al., 2013). The results about the influence of number of pedestrians are
470 complex and difficult to interpret as they are influenced by season and varied depending on
471 the biodiversity component analyzed. We found a negative relationship with taxonomic
472 diversity during the breeding season that is in agreement with the assumption that human
473 population density reduces vertebrate species richness, particularly at small scales (Pautasso,
474 2007). On the contrary, functional diversity of local bird assemblages in winter was
475 positively associated with the number of pedestrians. These results however should be taken
476 with caution because of potential daily variation in pedestrian activity that might obscure the
477 association between this measure (collected during the first hours of the morning) and human
478 population density.

479

480 **5. Conclusions**

481 Our study shows differences in avian biodiversity depending on the urban
482 development style in Europe, partially supporting land-sharing urban areas. However, these
483 differences are complex and vary depending on the season and component of biodiversity

484 considered. The positive effect of land sharing is restricted to winter, having no significant
485 impact for European breeding bird assemblages which highlights important temporal
486 contrasts (i.e. between seasons). Furthermore, the observed effect in winter applies to
487 taxonomic and functional diversity but not to phylogenetic diversity suggesting that the
488 spatial configuration of urban features is insufficient to fully preserve biodiversity. Additional
489 conservation practices might be needed to create more biodiversity-friendly cities. Despite
490 this complexity, our findings provide useful information for the current debate on how to
491 balance biodiversity conservation and human well-being. Large-scale modeling of future
492 urban scenarios will allow the development of more precise tools and suggestions. Our study
493 explores the effect of urban landscape configuration using a specific spatial scale, but land
494 sharing and sparing can be defined at multiple spatial scales (Kremen, 2015) and, therefore,
495 additional studies using different scales will be very interesting to investigate the generality
496 of our findings. Furthermore, despite urbanization being a worldwide phenomenon, urban
497 environments vary at large geographic scales (Forman, 2014). Future studies in other regions
498 are therefore imperative to better understand the relationship between urbanization practices
499 and biodiversity, as well as to provide locally-adjusted conservation recommendations (e.g.
500 Díaz & Concepción, 2016). Particularly interesting would be the focus on high biodiversity
501 areas (i.e. tropics), where a larger urban expansion is predicted to happen (Seto et al., 2012).

502 In our study, we also determined which small-scale urban landscape characteristics
503 (i.e. few impervious surfaces, high water or tree cover) and human practices (i.e. use of bird
504 feeders or berry plants) may help maintain more taxonomic, functional and phylogenetically
505 diverse urban bird assemblages during breeding and/or winter. Consequently, we gave
506 specific management practices for both policymakers and citizens that hopefully will make it
507 easier to reconcile urbanization and biodiversity conservation. Future studies on other human
508 practices and activities not considered here (e.g. traffic, mowing...) that can also disrupt

509 biodiversity (Battisti et al., 2016) will be very interesting in this context. It remains unknown
510 whether our recommendations can be applied to other cities outside Europe, but we hope that
511 our findings can be valuable for urban conservationists and policymakers.

512

513 **Competing interest**

514 The authors declare no competing interest.

515

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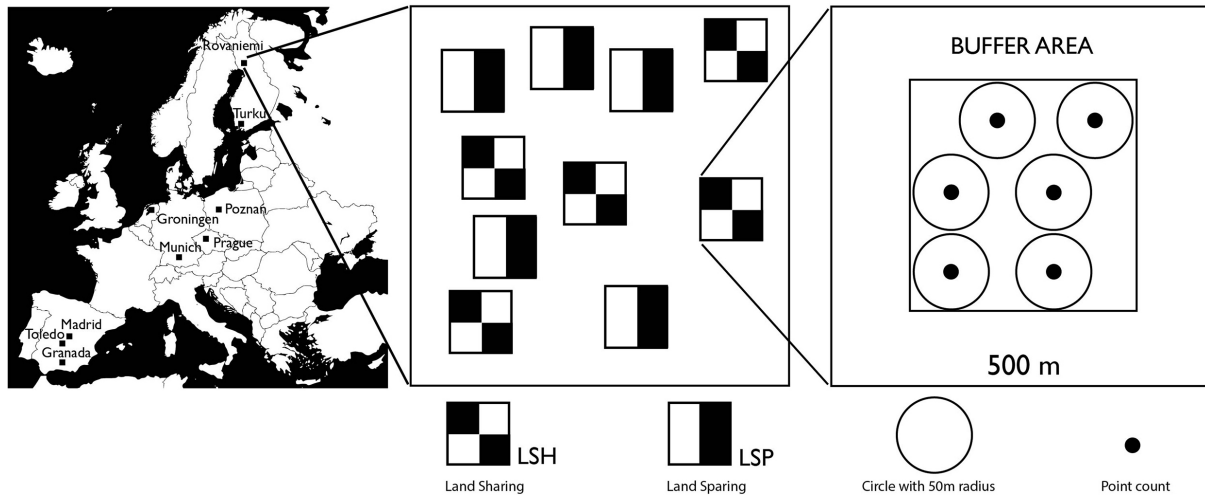
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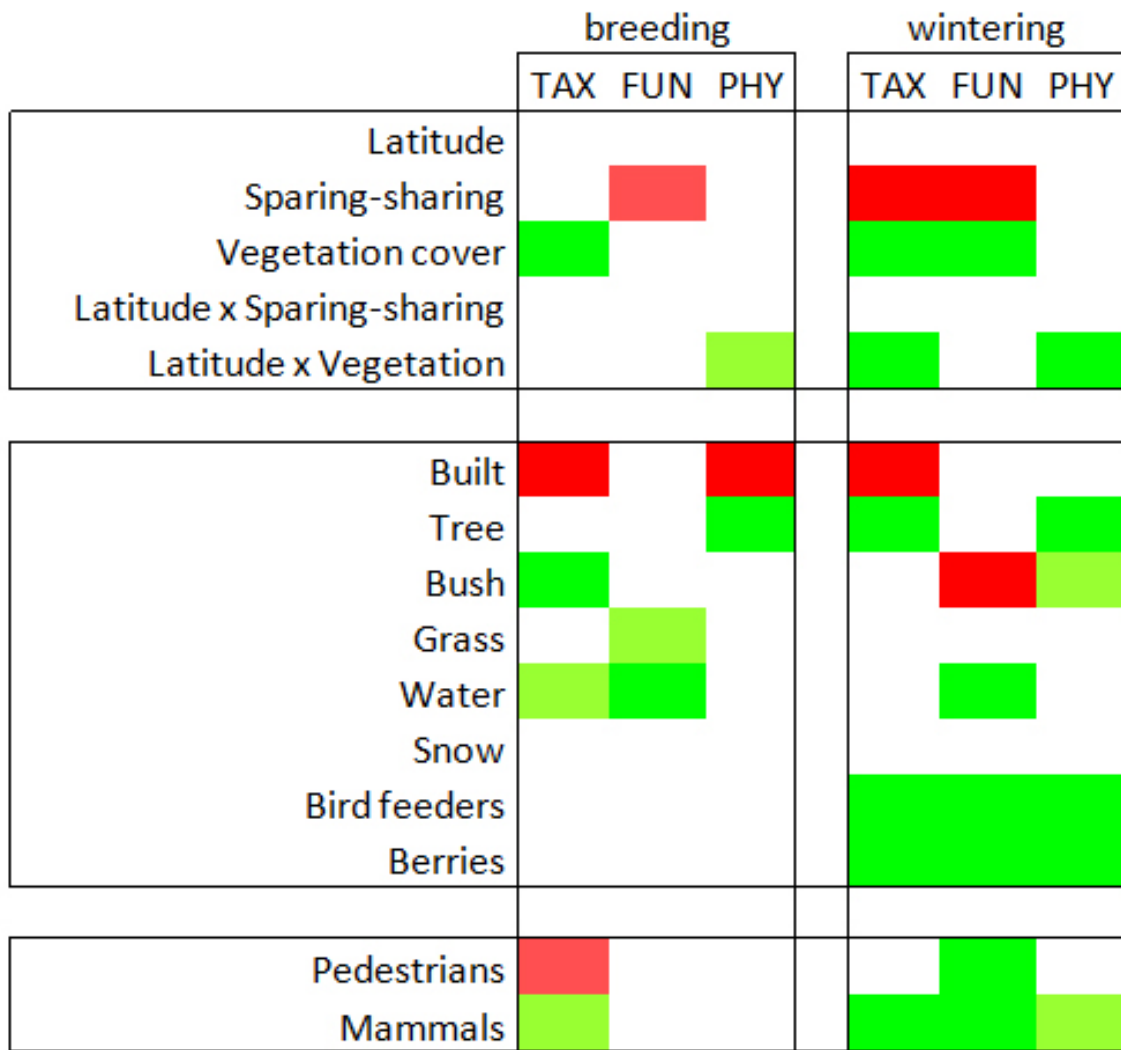
785

786 **Figure legends**

787 Figure 1. Study design and location of the 9 cities used distributed across 6 European
788 countries. Black areas in the second square represent built surfaces, while white ones
789 correspond to green areas. The second square shows a schematic representation of study plots
790 and do not show the real configuration of study plots for that city (i.e. distances between them
791 are not at the proper scale).



793 Figure 2. Heat-map of the estimated effects (positive in green, negative in red; effect sizes
 794 <10% in lighter colours) of urban development style (sparing-sharing), vegetation features,
 795 and presence of pedestrians and mammals on the taxonomic (TAX), functional (FUN) and
 796 phylogenetic (PHY) diversity of breeding and wintering bird communities in European cities.
 797 See detailed results in Table S2.



798

799

800 Figure 3. Comparison of overall bird species richness, functional diversity and average
 801 community evolutionary distinctiveness between land sharing (LSH) and land sparing (LSP)
 802 urban areas, in breeding and wintering seasons, merging all data from 9 cities. The y-axis
 803 represents the estimated variable. The boxplots show the mean (yellow rhombus), median
 804 (bar in the middle of rectangles), upper and lower quartiles and extreme values.

