

1 **Research Article**

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3 **Human-habitat associations in the native distributions of alien bird species**

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## 24 **Summary**

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26 1. The role of human tolerance is increasingly being proposed as a key driver of  
27 invasion success by alien species. Human habitat associations may first facilitate  
28 transport, making a species more available for introduction, and also facilitate  
29 establishment by creating environmental matching between human-altered habitats at  
30 the sites of origin and introduction. Nevertheless, the assumption that alien species  
31 exhibit associations with human habitats in their native ranges has been largely  
32 overlooked.

33

34 2. We conduct the first global assessment of the relative importance of human habitat  
35 associations in shaping the native distributions of species introduced worldwide, in  
36 relation to other key important drivers, i.e., climate and land-use. For this, we applied  
37 deviance partitioning analysis and species distribution models (SDM) to 776 introduced  
38 alien bird species from five continents.

39

40 3. While an independent effect of climate, and a joint effect of climate and non-urban  
41 land uses, appear as major factors governing alien species distribution in their native  
42 ranges, significant independent contributions of anthropogenic variables were found for  
43 most species. The effect of anthropogenic variables was mostly positive, or concave  
44 with highest responses at intermediate values. Notably, human-habitat associations in  
45 the native distributions of alien birds were significantly higher than expected relative to  
46 a pool of available species from the same bird families (N=3,565). Thus, introduced  
47 alien birds are a non-random sample with respect to their association with human-

48 altered habitats. Nevertheless, an increase in introduction rates of species showing no  
49 response, or a negative response, to human influence has occurred over recent decades.

50

51 4. To prevent invasions, understanding which species are most likely to become  
52 successful aliens outside their native range is essential. Our results support the  
53 hypothesis that association with humans may be an important driver of alien bird  
54 species distribution in their native ranges, and thus increase the likelihood that these  
55 species will end up being introduced and established. To provide policymakers with  
56 robust predictions of invasion risk, we recommend including human habitat associations  
57 in invasion risk assessments, and accounting for them in species distribution models.

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59 Keywords: anthropocene, biological invasions, human-tolerant species, invasive exotic  
60 birds, environmental-matching, SDM, transport

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## 63 **Introduction**

64

65 Biological invasions are a concern because they impose significant negative impacts on  
66 native species, ecosystems and human societies (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment  
67 2005; Vilà *et al.* 2010). Many thousands of species have established alien populations  
68 worldwide, and there is no evidence that the rate of accumulation of aliens is slowing  
69 down (Seebens *et al.* 2017). Awareness of the negative impact of biological invasions  
70 and the critical need for effective management have led to an extended body of research  
71 assessing the factors driving invasion success so as to predict invasion outcomes (e.g.,  
72 Blackburn *et al.* 2009; Vall-Llosera and Sol 2009; Dyer *et al.* 2017).

73       Event-level factors, such as propagule pressure or time since first introduction  
74 (Blackburn, Lockwood & Cassey 2015; Abellán *et al.* 2017), and species-specific life  
75 history traits (Sol *et al.* 2012) have been described as key drivers of the invasion  
76 process, determining both the establishment success of introduced species, and the  
77 subsequent extent of spread of established species across the new environment  
78 (Blackburn, Lockwood & Cassey 2015; Dyer *et al.* 2016; Abellán *et al.* 2017).

79 Additionally, the hospitability of the environment where a species is introduced might  
80 greatly affect invasion success (Duncan *et al.* 2014; Abellán *et al.* 2017). Climate – and  
81 in particular climate matching to native ranges – is generally considered as a major  
82 environmental range-limiting factor of invasive species distribution, especially at large  
83 spatial scales (Cardador *et al.* 2016; Abellán *et al.* 2017). Other biotic and abiotic  
84 factors have also been widely recognized to influence invasion process but are less well-  
85 understood (Levine, Adler & Yelenik 2004; Gallardo, Zieritz & Aldridge 2015). One  
86 factor that has recently attracted attention is the extent to which being associated with

87 human-altered environments allows organisms to better negotiate the different stages of  
88 the invasion process.

89 Growing evidence suggests that alien species tend to proliferate in human-altered  
90 habitats in introduced ranges that most native species are unable to use (Sax & Brown  
91 2000). This pattern has been classically explained in terms of human-related alterations  
92 making the environment easier to invade by reducing biotic resistance and offering new  
93 niche opportunities (Sol *et al.* 2017b). However, the pattern can also be interpreted as  
94 reflecting the variety of ways human activities may influence the invasion process.  
95 These include an increased chance of repeated introductions and large propagule  
96 pressure in humanized environments (McKinney 2002; Gallardo & Aldridge 2013).  
97 Human activities may also facilitate environmental matching by increasing the  
98 likelihood that a species that relies on human-altered environments in their area of  
99 origin ends up established in such type of environments after being introduced. For  
100 birds, for example, there is increasing evidence that traits associated with tolerance to  
101 urbanization in introduced alien species' native ranges (Evans *et al.* 2011; Sol *et al.*  
102 2014, 2017b) are also related to the establishment success of human-driven  
103 introductions. While these alternative hypotheses are theoretically sound, the crucial  
104 assumption that alien species exhibit human habitat associations in their native ranges  
105 has surprisingly been largely overlooked (with the exception of plants, for which a high  
106 proportion of naturalised alien species show associations with human-disturbed  
107 environments in their native ranges, Kalusová *et al.* 2017).

108 Understanding the relationship of alien species with human-altered habitats in  
109 their native distributions is not only essential to unravel the pathways of invasions, but it  
110 is also relevant because critical biological adaptations in relation to human activities that  
111 might favour invasions might also occur within introduced alien species' native ranges

112 (Rey *et al.* 2012; Hufbauer *et al.* 2012). For some insects, for example, human  
113 alterations have been shown to lead to major evolutionary changes (i.e., thermotolerance  
114 adaptation) within species' native ranges that might later constitute prior adaptations  
115 when introduced in new areas (Foucaud *et al.* 2013). Moreover, better understanding the  
116 relationship of human factors to species' native distributions also has relevance for  
117 predictions of invasion risk. Notably, species distribution models (SDMs,  
118 phenomenological models that statistically relate observed species occurrences to  
119 environmental variables) play a critical role in invasion risk assessments, relying mostly  
120 on an assumption of conservatism of the climatic niche (Jiménez-Valverde *et al.* 2011;  
121 Guisan *et al.* 2014). However, recent studies have shown that this approach could be  
122 hampered by apparent mismatches between native and invasive distributions derived  
123 from SDMs. While such differences are often interpreted as niche shifts reflecting  
124 evolutionary changes, mismatches may be also contingent upon the environmental  
125 variables used (Strubbe & Matthysen 2014). In particular, the failure to incorporate  
126 relevant factors of species distribution, such as human factors, that might modify  
127 distributional limits set by climate might lead to poor predictions (Strubbe *et al.* 2015).

128         In this study, we conduct the first global assessment of the relative importance of  
129 human habitat associations in shaping the native distributions of 776 alien bird species  
130 introduced worldwide, in relation to other key important drivers of species distributions,  
131 i.e., climate and land-use. For this, we used deviance partitioning analysis to identify the  
132 pure and joint contributions of these variable sets on environmental suitability obtained  
133 from SDMs. We then assessed whether the role of human-habitat associations is more  
134 important in introduced species than expected by chance relative to a pool of available  
135 species from the same bird families (N=3,565). As species adapted to human-altered  
136 habitats are likely to increase in abundance within areas frequented by humans, we

137 expected that they were more likely to have been captured and transported to a novel  
138 range (Hufbauer *et al.* 2012; Sol *et al.* 2017b) and thus, overrepresented in the alien  
139 species pool. Similarly, we assessed whether human-habitat associations are more  
140 frequent within established species (N = 330), as would be expected if larger propagule  
141 pressure or environmental-matching between original habitats and introduction sites  
142 occur (Hufbauer *et al.* 2012; Sol *et al.* 2017b). Finally, we evaluated whether the  
143 relevance of human-habitat associations across species introduced worldwide has  
144 changed over recent centuries, as changes in the main introduction pathways and source  
145 pools of alien bird species have occurred (Dyer *et al.* 2017; Seebens *et al.* 2018).

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## 147 **Materials and methods**

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### 149 **Species distribution and environmental data**

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151 Our analyses focused on all bird species that have been reported as introduced in the  
152 wild in at least one non-native locality worldwide (N = 971) (Dyer, Redding &  
153 Blackburn 2017). Occurrence data at the species level for analysis were compiled from  
154 the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, <http://www.gbif.org>) and then  
155 checked and classified as pertaining or not to the introduced alien species' native  
156 breeding range according to BirdLife International and NatureServe range maps (2014).  
157 Birdlife International and NatureServe range maps comprise polygons mostly based on  
158 the Digital Chart of the World as a basemap (1:1,000,000 scale). Species distributions  
159 on these maps are derived from a systematic and thorough search of the data available  
160 in all regions of the world (including a variety of sources such as museum data, bird  
161 observation datasets and webpages, published literature, survey reports and other

162 unpublished sources, distribution atlas, distributions maps in field guides and other  
163 handbooks and expert opinion). While information provided is likely to be complete  
164 and up-to-date for most species, data may be incomplete for some species, probably  
165 due to intrinsic geographic or taxonomic biases in the available data (Collen *et al.*  
166 2008; Hortal *et al.* 2008). However, both geographic origin of species and taxonomy  
167 are accounted for in our analyses (see below), and thus these sources of bias should  
168 not affect our results. Occurrence data were aggregated at 5-arcminute resolution,  
169 which corresponds approximately to  $10 \times 10$  km. This resolution was considered to be  
170 representative of smallest city sizes and thus adequate to capture main responses of bird  
171 species to humanized environments with acceptable computing time. Samples with  
172 reported geographic issues, location uncertainty above 5 km or with central grid  
173 coordinates of atlases of  $>10$ km resolution were removed from analyses. Duplicate  
174 samples at the 5-arcmin resolution were handled as single observations. Only  
175 introduced species with more than 50 locations in their native breeding range ( $N = 794$ )  
176 were retained for subsequent analyses (Stockwell & Peterson 2002) Disregarding  
177 species with lower sample sizes is unlikely to affect our main results, as preliminary  
178 analyses showed overall consistent patterns when considering species with increasingly  
179 larger sample sizes (Table S1 & S2 in Supplementary Material). The mean number of  
180 locations for selected species was 8,074 ( $SD = 17,571$ , range = 51 – 141,810).

181 As descriptors of human altered environments we considered two variables: (1)  
182 the Global Human Influence Index, which provides a weighted composite map of  
183 anthropogenic impacts including urban extent, population density, land cover, night  
184 lights and distance to roads, railways, navigable rivers and coastlines (Sanderson *et al.*  
185 2002) and (2) the percentage of urban habitats as a more specific descriptor of  
186 urbanization. Although species may respond similarly to both variables, different



187 responses are also possible: for example, a species can respond positively to the Global  
188 Human Influence Index because its distribution is mostly associated with agricultural  
189 habitats, such that it then shows no response to urbanization). Percentage of urban  
190 habitats (including urban and built-up areas) at the 5-arcmin resolution was derived  
191 from data provided by the USGS Land Cover Institute (LCI  
192 (<https://landcover.usgs.gov/>) at 500m resolution.

193 We also compiled information on climate and non-urban land uses given their key  
194 role in bird species distributions. As non-urban land use variables we derived the  
195 percentage of woodlands and open lands (including shrubland, grassland and savannas)  
196 using the same data source and methodology as for the percentage of urban habitats. As  
197 climate variables we considered eight bioclimatic variables (obtained from WorldClim,  
198 <http://www.worldclim.org/>) (Hijmans *et al.* 2005), which are known to affect bird  
199 distributions (Strubbe *et al.* 2015; Cardador *et al.* 2016): annual mean temperature,  
200 temperature seasonality (standard deviation of monthly values  $\times 100$ ), maximum  
201 temperature of the warmest month, minimum temperature of the coldest month, annual  
202 precipitation, precipitation of the driest month, precipitation of the wettest month and  
203 precipitation seasonality (coefficient of variation of monthly values). However, annual  
204 mean temperature and temperature seasonality were highly correlated with minimum  
205 temperature of the coldest month ( $r \geq 0.90$ ) and thus we only retained this last variable  
206 for analyses to reduce the number of variables the maximum. Annual precipitation was  
207 also highly correlated with precipitation of wettest month (and more correlated with the  
208 rest of variables), and thus removed from analyses (Table S3 in Supplementary  
209 Material). Both the linear and quadratic forms of variables were considered to account  
210 for non-linear relationships. For 18 species of the 794 species analysed, problems arose  
211 with model convergence and hence these were disregarded in subsequent analyses.

212

### 213 **Factors affecting species distributions**

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215 We conducted generalized linear models (GLM) for each introduced species containing  
216 all combinations of the variable sets (i.e., human, climate and non-urban land uses) and  
217 with species occurrences as the response variable (binomial error distribution and logit-  
218 link function). Models were run with a single set of pseudo-absences including locations  
219 from all biomes covered by each introduced alien species' native range to ensure the  
220 most biologically meaningful fit between species occurrence and predictor variables  
221 (Guisan *et al.* 2014). To reduce uncertainty caused by sampling artefacts, we conducted  
222 10 replicates for each model by randomly selecting 70% of each species' data  
223 (including presences and pseudo-absences) for each replicate (but see consistent results  
224 for models considering total sample size, Table S4-S6 in Supplementary material). A  
225 stepwise approach based on the Akaike's information criterion (AIC) was used to avoid  
226 model overfitting in GLMs. However, results from models including all variables were  
227 highly consistent according to preliminary analyses (Table S7 in Supplementary  
228 Material). To reduce the potential effect of sampling biases in the data, a bias file was  
229 created by retrieving from GBIF occurrence data at the family level for each introduced  
230 species (Elith, Kearney & Phillips 2010; Gallardo & Aldridge 2013). Occurrence data  
231 from species in the same taxonomic family are expected to suffer from the same  
232 detection limitations, reducing the effect of sampling biases in observed distribution  
233 patterns. We derived a kernel density map of sampling bias at a 5-arcminute resolution  
234 using ArcMap 10.5 to be included in all models.

235 Deviance partitioning analyses were then used to assess the relative roles of  
236 human-habitat associations, climate and non-urban land-uses on introduced alien

237 species' native ranges. Deviance partitioning is a quantitative statistical method which  
238 separates the amount of deviance explained by the independent effects of each  
239 explanatory variable set in a model from the amount explained by joint effects that  
240 cannot unambiguously be attributed to one variable set or another due to spatial  
241 collinearity (Heikkinen *et al.* 2005). It entails the calculation of incremental  
242 improvements in model fit due to the inclusion of each variable set in every possible  
243 model. Negative values in pure effects were interpreted as zeros as they correspond to  
244 cases where the explanatory variables explain less variation than random normal  
245 variables would (Legendre 2008). As a null model for deviance partitioning analyses  
246 for each species we used a GLM with species occurrences as the response variable and  
247 containing sampling bias as unique predictor.

248

#### 249 **Response to humans and introduction rate**

250

251 Results of GLMs considering human, climate and non-urban land uses (see above) were  
252 used to classify introduced species in categories according to their different responses  
253 (no response, positive, negative, convex or concave) to human variables (i.e., Global  
254 Human Influence Index and percentage of urban habitats) in their native ranges. We  
255 then evaluated whether the influence of human variables in shaping introduced alien  
256 species' native range differed from that expected at random using randomization  
257 procedures. For this, the observed frequency of different types of responses to human  
258 variables of introduced species was first compared against a null distribution of 10,000  
259 simulated values obtained by randomly sampling an equal number of species within the  
260 same taxonomic families. A total of 3,565 species (including the 776 introduced  
261 species, as we were interested in the pool of available species) were considered for

262 randomizations. To tackle possible geographic biases in introduction patterns (Duncan  
263 *et al.* 2003), we generated a second null model for randomizations in which we  
264 considered both species' taxonomic family and geographic origin. Geographic origin  
265 was the realm (Oceania, Afrotropic, Nearctic, Palaearctic, Australasia, Indomalayan or  
266 Neotropical) occupied by most of the introduced alien species' native range (>50%)  
267 according to BirdLife International and NaturServe (2014). If no dominant realm  
268 occurred, geographic origin was classified as "multiregion" (1.9 % of species). GLMs  
269 for non-introduced species were conducted using the same procedure as for introduced  
270 species (see above).

271

## 272 **Response to humans and establishment**

273

274 We then compared the frequency of different types of responses to human variables of  
275 established species against species introduced by generating 10,000 simulated values  
276 obtained by randomly sampling an equal number of species within the same taxonomic  
277 families. As established species we considered those that have been reported as  
278 established in the wild in at least one non-native locality (Dyer, Redding & Blackburn  
279 2017). Introduced species for which no information on establishment success was  
280 available, and the small number with extirpated populations (Dyer, Redding &  
281 Blackburn 2017), were not considered for analyses.

282

## 283 **Temporal variation of response to humans**

284

285 We tested for differences in introduction periods among introduced alien species  
286 showing different responses to humans in native ranges. For this, we used a

287 randomization approach in which species' first introduction dates were randomised, and  
288 the geometric mean of each type of response (no response, positive, negative, convex or  
289 concave) calculated. This was repeated 10,000 times to give the expected distribution of  
290 geometric means for each type of response. The mean, minimum, maximum and  
291 percentiles of the 10,000 geometric means for each category were then extracted. The  
292 actual geometric means for each category were then compared with the expected  
293 distributions. Information on first introduction date was available for a total of 599 from  
294 the 776 introduced species with estimated response to human variables. Since  
295 introduction dates before 1500 were scarce ( $n = 7$ ) and 1500 is a standard cutoff point  
296 for studying biological invasions (Dyer *et al.* 2017), we censored our analyses to years  
297 after 1500 to avoid an excessive noise of extreme values.

298

## 299 **Results**

300

### 301 **Factors affecting species distribution**

302

303 Of the 776 introduced species analysed,  $725 \pm 5$  ( $93 \pm 0.5$  %) presented native  
304 distributions significantly affected by human-altered environments (note that mean  $\pm$   
305 SD values refer to results obtained across 10 model replicates), whether by the Global  
306 Human Influence Index ( $149 \pm 6$ ,  $19 \pm 1$  %), percentage of urban habitats ( $69 \pm 4$ ,  $9 \pm$   
307  $1$  %) or both ( $507 \pm 8$ ,  $65 \pm 1$  %). The effects were mostly positive or concave both for  
308 the Global Human Influence Index ( $31 \pm 1$  % and  $46 \pm 1$  % of the total 776 species,  
309 respectively) and the percentage of urban habitats ( $15 \pm 1$  % and  $53 \pm 1$  %,   
310 respectively). Positive or concave responses mean that occurrence probability is highest

311 at high or intermediate values of human variables, respectively (Fig. 1). Negative and  
312 convex responses were uncommon (< 5%).

313 Deviance partitioning analyses showed that the pure contribution of human  
314 variables to models averaged  $14 \pm 13\%$  (mean  $\pm$  SD) across the 776 species and  
315 replicates (Fig. 2). Climate explained a larger fraction of the variation in distribution  
316 patterns ( $54 \pm 18\%$ ), followed by the joint effect of climate and non-urban land uses  
317 ( $20 \pm 14\%$ ) and human variables and non-urban land uses ( $11 \pm 9\%$ ). Contributions of  
318 the pure effect of non-urban land uses and other joint effects were low (< 5%). The total  
319 deviance explained by the three variables sets was  $16 \pm 9\%$ .

320

### 321 **Human-habitat associations and invasion stages**

322

323 Introduction rates were higher than expected by chance for species with concave or  
324 positive responses to the Global Human Influence Index and lower than expected for  
325 species showing no response, with slight variations according to the modelling approach  
326 used (Tables 1, S4 and S8). Some support for lower introduction rates than expected for  
327 species showing negative responses was also found. Results were overall consistent for  
328 percentage of urban habitats, although lower support for the effect of positive and  
329 negative responses on introduction rates was found, with some variation across  
330 modelling approaches (Tables 1, S4 and S8). Among established species, species  
331 responding positively to high or intermediate values of the Global Human Influence  
332 Index and percentage of urban habitats, respectively, were also over-represented (Table  
333 2 and S5). Regarding temporal variation, randomization procedures showed later first  
334 introduction dates for species showing no response or a negative response to the Global  
335 Human Influence Index and earlier for species showing positive responses (but see

336 some variations across replicates, Table 3 and S6 and Figure 3). Support for later  
337 introduction dates for species showing no response to urban environments was also  
338 found (Table3).

339

## 340 **Discussion**

341

342 Our results support the hypothesis that association with humans may be an important  
343 driver of alien bird species distribution in their native ranges, increasing the likelihood  
344 that these species will end up being introduced and subsequently established. While an  
345 independent effect of climate, and a joint effect of climate and non-urban land uses,  
346 appear also as major factors governing distribution in introduced alien species' native  
347 ranges, significant independent contributions of anthropogenic variables were  
348 consistently found for most species. Human-habitat associations in the native  
349 distributions of alien bird species were significantly higher than expected by chance,  
350 indicating that introduced and established alien birds are not a random sample with  
351 respect to their association to human-altered environments (as occurs with plants,  
352 Kalusová *et al.* 2017).

353 The independent positive effect of our two metrics of human-altered environments  
354 on species occurrence probability in native ranges might reflect the capacity of some  
355 species to use and thrive in those environments. This may be related to phenotypic  
356 plasticity, evolutionary response to such environments or non-random sorting due to  
357 habitat pre-adaptations (Sol, Lapiedra & González-Lagos 2013). In turn, the use of  
358 human environments may allow such species to gain access to new resource  
359 opportunities such as supplementary feeding (Robb *et al.* 2008; Clergeau & Vergnes  
360 2011) or different microclimatic or microhabitat conditions with respect to natural areas

361 (Pickett *et al.* 2001) that could modify physiological and resource limitations locally  
362 imposed by climate and non-urban land uses. However, it is worth noting that a large  
363 fraction of the species in this study only responded positively to moderate levels of  
364 human alterations (concave responses). More extreme conditions may act as stronger  
365 environmental filters selecting for only a low fraction of species that can tolerate such  
366 conditions (Sol *et al.* 2017a).

367         Human habitat associations in introduced alien species' native range can in turn  
368 have important effects on invasion risks. Thus, in our study, higher introduction rates  
369 were observed for species responding positively to high or intermediate levels of human  
370 alterations, compared with species not responding or responding negatively to them.  
371 This pattern might be explained by different processes. First, species adapted to human-  
372 altered environments are likely to increase in abundance within areas frequented by  
373 humans and thus are more likely to be captured and transported to new regions  
374 (Hufbauer *et al.* 2012; Sol *et al.* 2017b). Additionally, species habituated to humans  
375 could also have higher chances to pass selection filters imposed by captivity and  
376 transport (Mueller *et al.* 2017). It is also possible that given that birds are commonly  
377 chosen for particular purposes – i.e. most introduced species are game or ornamental  
378 cage birds (Duncan *et al.* 2003; Abellán *et al.* 2016) – people would prefer to choose  
379 species with which they are more familiar. This has certainly been argued to drive  
380 specific cases of naturalisation (Blackburn, Lockwood & Cassey 2009), and would  
381 potentially favour species more common in human-modified environments.

382         As introduced species constitute the pool of species from which establishment,  
383 and thereafter spread, can take place, species showing tolerance to human altered  
384 environments are also likely to be overrepresented in subsequent invasion stages  
385 (Duncan *et al.* 2003). In turn, the likelihood of establishment of such species may



386 increase, for example, because of higher colonization and propagule pressures, as  
387 species associated with humans are expected to be introduced more frequently but also  
388 in higher numbers. Additionally, environmental matching due to the introduction of  
389 such species to human-altered environments to which they are already adapted may also  
390 enhance establishment (Hufbauer *et al.* 2012; Sol *et al.* 2017b).

391         Nevertheless, temporal trends of species introduced worldwide show that an  
392 increase in introduction rates of species showing no response, or a negative response, to  
393 human influence has occurred through time. These temporal patterns occur in parallel to  
394 changes in the main origin of introduced species (Dyer *et al.* 2017; Seebens *et al.* 2018),  
395 suggesting that changes in the type of species introduced in relation to their tolerance to  
396 humans could be related to increased accessibility to more pristine areas with  
397 globalization and technology development. While ‘historical’ bird introductions mostly  
398 involved species originating from Europe and related to deliberate releases by early  
399 acclimatisation societies, most recent bird introductions concern unplanned releases of  
400 birds from the pet trade, and involve species originating from more tropical regions  
401 (Abellán *et al.* 2016; Dyer *et al.* 2017). Different urbanization histories in regions of  
402 origin of introduced species would have posed different selective pressures in relation to  
403 human alterations, with species in less exposed areas having had less opportunity to  
404 colonize human-modified environments. Our results contrast with previous expectations  
405 suggesting that the ever-increasing rates of human-transformations worldwide, could be  
406 related to increased transport and introduction of species adapted to human alterations  
407 (Hufbauer *et al.* 2012). However, it is important to note that the influence of human-  
408 habitat associations on the transport probability of birds could be lower than those of  
409 other species (e.g. insects (Foucaud *et al.* 2013)), which unlike birds, are involuntarily  
410 introduced in long-distance transport channels.

411 The data used in this study are the best currently available for an entire major  
412 taxon, but nonetheless come with caveats (Dyer *et al.* 2016; Dyer, Redding &  
413 Blackburn 2017). The species analysed are likely to be at different stages of the  
414 invasion process (Blackburn *et al.*, 2009), and thus some of them may establish or die  
415 out in the future. The documentation of introductions and established species may be  
416 influenced by higher or lower recording effort in certain regions or throughout time. The  
417 estimates of responses to human habitats mostly rely on species current distributions,  
418 assuming that these responses have remained constant throughout time. All of these  
419 issues add noise to our analyses, although we do not believe that they will have  
420 generated any of the results we present here as artefacts.

421 In the Anthropocene era, it is increasingly acknowledged that human activities  
422 interact with ecological processes in multiple ways. Our work contributes to the  
423 growing evidence that human-habitat associations can play an important role in the  
424 native distributions of alien bird species, with important effects on introduction  
425 Therefore, accounting for human-habitat associations in introduced alien species' native  
426 ranges is essential to provide a more thorough assessment of invasion risk. Invasion risk  
427 assessment represent the primary approach to support and prioritise policies and actions  
428 (e.g. importation bans or quarantines) aimed to prevent the introduction of species  
429 posing a high risk of invasion. A common approach to risk assessment uses species  
430 distribution models to predict the probability of establishment in a new region,  
431 according to climatic constraints in a species' native range and/or invaded regions  
432 (Thuiller *et al.* 2005). While these models have been described as effective first-  
433 screening tools, they often assume that broad limits of species distributions are  
434 determine by climate, with the effect of other factors being insignificant. The key role  
435 of anthropogenic variables in shaping alien species' native ranges in our study shows

436 that this assumption can be violated. Thus, to provide more robust predictions of  
437 invasion risks, incorporating anthropogenic variables into species distribution models is  
438 highly recommended to guide effective management. Our results also have applied  
439 relevance for the application of assessments mostly based on species traits, as they  
440 provide empirical support to previous trait-based species risk assessments assuming that  
441 human associations can be used as a reliable predictor of invasion risks (Vall-Llosera &  
442 Sol 2009).

443

#### 444 **Authors' contributions**

445

446 L.C. and T.B conceived the ideas, L.C. analysed the data with inputs from T.B,  
447 L.C. and T.B. discussed results, contributed critically to the drafts and gave final  
448 approval for publication. L.C. led the writing of the manuscript.

449

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451

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460

461 **Data accessibility**

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463 All data used in this manuscript have already been published or archived and can be  
464 accessible from Figshare (<http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4234850>) (Dyer, et. al  
465 2017), GBIF database (<https://www.gbif.org/>), WorldClim  
466 (<http://www.worldclim.org/bioclimate>), USGS Land Cover Institute (LCI)  
467 (<https://landcover.usgs.gov/>) and BirdLife International & NatureServe (2014)  
468 (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/requestdis>).

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**Table 1.** Results for randomization procedures assessing the response to the Global Human Influence Index and urbanization of alien birds relative to a pool of available species from the same bird families (N=3,565). Note that as species response classifications are based on 10 replicated models, 10 randomization procedures were conducted. In each, run the observed frequency of different types of responses (observed) of alien birds was compared against a null distribution of 10,000 simulated values. The averaged values  $\pm$  SD of the mean, minimum and maximum of the 10,000 simulated geometric means across different runs are shown. The number of runs with significant results at  $\alpha = 0.01$  and  $\alpha = 0.05$  are shown. Results are based on a randomization stratified approaches considering only species' family.

Response	Mean	Min	Max	Observed	P < 0.001	P < 0.05
Global Human Influence Index						
Concave	335 $\pm$ 8	305 $\pm$ 7	367 $\pm$ 7	360 $\pm$ 9	9	10
Convex	23 $\pm$ 2	12 $\pm$ 2	34 $\pm$ 3	23 $\pm$ 3	0	0
Negative	33 $\pm$ 2	19 $\pm$ 3	48 $\pm$ 2	28 $\pm$ 2	0	3
Positive	224 $\pm$ 4	197 $\pm$ 4	254 $\pm$ 4	244 $\pm$ 7	3	10
Tolerant	161 $\pm$ 7	132 $\pm$ 7	189 $\pm$ 7	120 $\pm$ 6	10	10
Urban						
Concave	354 $\pm$ 5	324 $\pm$ 4	386 $\pm$ 3	411 $\pm$ 5	10	10
Convex	21 $\pm$ 3	12 $\pm$ 2	32 $\pm$ 4	16 $\pm$ 3	2	5
Negative	34 $\pm$ 4	20 $\pm$ 4	48 $\pm$ 4	31 $\pm$ 4	0	0
Positive	110 $\pm$ 6	89 $\pm$ 6	132 $\pm$ 6	119 $\pm$ 7	0	2
Tolerant	257 $\pm$ 5	226 $\pm$ 4	287 $\pm$ 4	199 $\pm$ 7	10	10

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**Table 2.** Results for randomization procedures assessing the response to the global human influence index and urbanization of established alien birds against introduced bird species. Note that as species response classifications are based on 10 replicated models, 10 randomization procedures were conducted. In each, run the observed frequency of different types of responses (observed) of alien birds was compared against a null distribution of 10,000 simulated values. The averaged values  $\pm$  SD of the mean, minimum and maximum of the 10,000 simulated geometric means across different runs are shown. The number of runs with significant results at  $\alpha = 0.01$  and  $\alpha = 0.05$  are shown. Results are based on a randomization stratified approaches considering species' family and geographic origin.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>P &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>P &lt; 0.05</b>
<b>GHII</b>						
Concave	147 $\pm$ 4	128 $\pm$ 5	168 $\pm$ 5	150 $\pm$ 5	0	0
Convex	11 $\pm$ 1	3 $\pm$ 1	17 $\pm$ 2	9 $\pm$ 2	0	0
Negative	13 $\pm$ 1	5 $\pm$ 1	19 $\pm$ 2	10 $\pm$ 1	0	1
Positive	113 $\pm$ 4	95 $\pm$ 4	132 $\pm$ 4	124 $\pm$ 4	3	8
Tolerant	46 $\pm$ 3	34 $\pm$ 3	59 $\pm$ 4	37 $\pm$ 4	6	8
<b>Urban</b>						
Concave	174 $\pm$ 4	155 $\pm$ 4	193 $\pm$ 4	189 $\pm$ 5	7	10
Convex	8 $\pm$ 1	2 $\pm$ 1	12 $\pm$ 2	7 $\pm$ 2	0	0
Negative	13 $\pm$ 2	6 $\pm$ 2	20 $\pm$ 3	12 $\pm$ 2	0	0
Positive	50 $\pm$ 4	36 $\pm$ 4	63 $\pm$ 5	51 $\pm$ 5	0	0
Tolerant	84 $\pm$ 5	68 $\pm$ 5	101 $\pm$ 5	70 $\pm$ 4	9	9

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**Table 3.** Results for randomization procedures assessing the first introduction date of alien bird species showing different types of responses to the global human influence index (GHII) and urbanization. Note that as species response classifications are based on 10 replicated models, 10 randomization procedures were conducted. In each run, the observed geometric mean of first introduction dates of alien birds (observed) was compared against a null distribution of 10,000 simulated values. The averaged values  $\pm$  SD of the mean, minimum and maximum of the 10,000 simulated geometric means across different runs are shown. The number of runs with significant results at  $\alpha = 0.01$  and  $\alpha = 0.05$  are shown.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>P &lt; 0.001</b>	<b>P &lt; 0.05</b>
<i>Global Human Influence Index</i>						
Concave	1914 $\pm$ 0.02	1901 $\pm$ 1	1928 $\pm$ 1	1911 $\pm$ 1	0	0
Convex	1914 $\pm$ 0.07	1830 $\pm$ 10	1970 $\pm$ 5	1928 $\pm$ 13	0	2
Negative	1915 $\pm$ 0.08	1836 $\pm$ 6	1967 $\pm$ 1	1945 $\pm$ 7	2	5
Positive	1914 $\pm$ 0.02	1893 $\pm$ 3	1934 $\pm$ 1	1900 $\pm$ 3	3	9
Tolerant	1914 $\pm$ 0.04	1880 $\pm$ 6	1943 $\pm$ 1	1939 $\pm$ 4	10	10
<i>Urban</i>						
Concave	1914 $\pm$ 0.02	1901 $\pm$ 1	1927 $\pm$ 1	1911 $\pm$ 2	0	1
Convex	1914 $\pm$ 0.14	1800 $\pm$ 11	1980 $\pm$ 5	1898 $\pm$ 8	0	0
Negative	1914 $\pm$ 0.11	1837 $\pm$ 7	1965 $\pm$ 4	1927 $\pm$ 6	0	0
Positive	1914 $\pm$ 0.05	1878 $\pm$ 4	1943 $\pm$ 2	1906 $\pm$ 4	0	0
Tolerant	1914 $\pm$ 0.05	1891 $\pm$ 2	1937 $\pm$ 2	1925 $\pm$ 3	0	4

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652 **Figure captions**

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654 **Figure 1.** Partial response curves showing the response to the Global Human Influence  
655 Index of introduced alien birds in their native ranges. Responses are based on GLMs  
656 modelling the probability of species occurrence in native ranges and are grouped into  
657 different categories depending on whether only the linear or the quadratic term of  
658 variable is significant in models, and on the sign of estimate. Positive refers to a positive  
659 relationship between human influence and species' probability of occurrence; negative  
660 to a negative relationship. In concave relationships, occurrence probability increases at  
661 intermediate values, whereas in convex relationships, occurrence probability increases  
662 at low or high values. Results based on models using all available occurrence data are  
663 shown.

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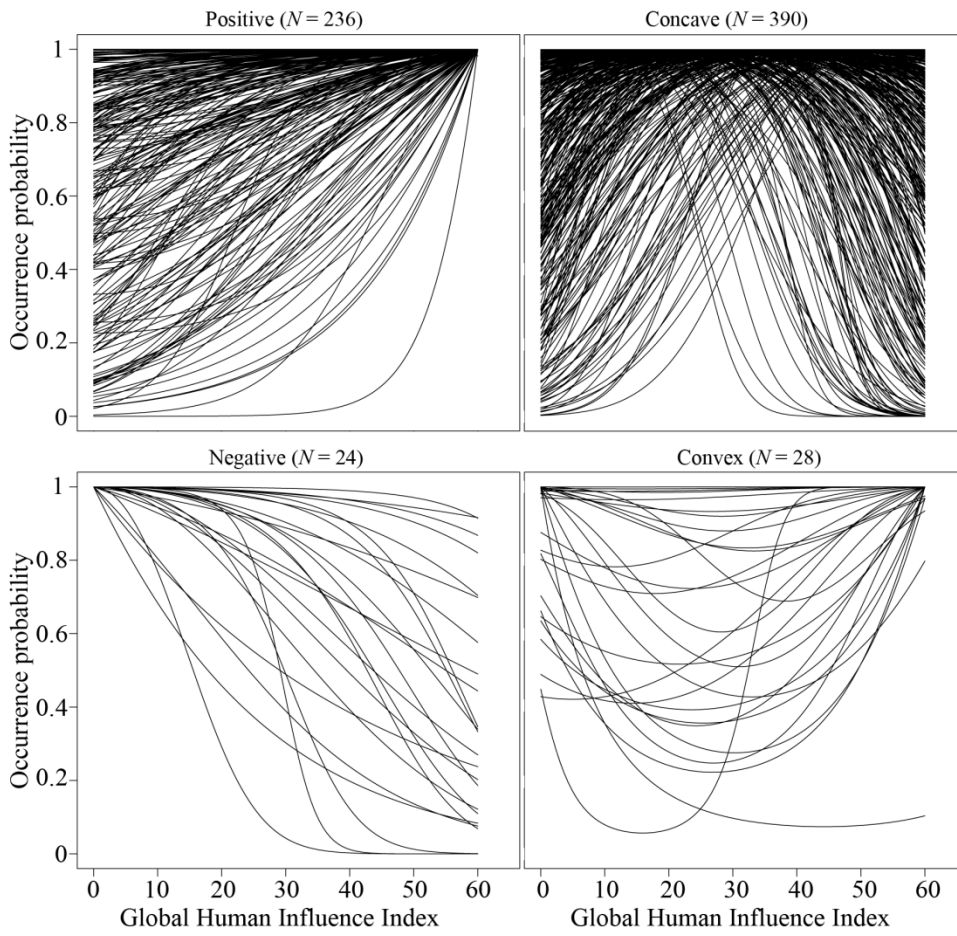
665 **Figure 2.** Deviance partitioning analyses for the probability of occurrence of alien bird  
666 species in their native ranges (panel a). Results are expressed as a percentage of the total  
667 deviance explained by the model (panel b). Deviance is explained by three groups of  
668 predictors: climate, non-urban land uses and human variables; (a), (b), and (c) are pure  
669 effects of climate, non-urban land uses and human variables respectively; while (d), (e),  
670 (f) and (g) are fractions indicating their joint effects. Results for 10 replicates models for  
671 each species ( $N = 776$ ) are shown.

672

673 **Figure 3.** Trends in first introduction dates of alien bird species after year 1500  
674 according to response to the Global Human Influence Index in native ranges. Yearly  
675 proportions of total newly introduced species per response category are provided.  
676 Results based on models using all available occurrence data are shown.

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678 Figure 1.



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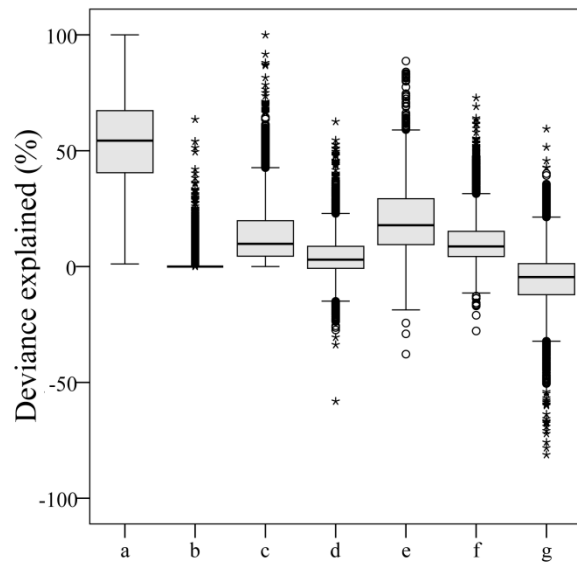
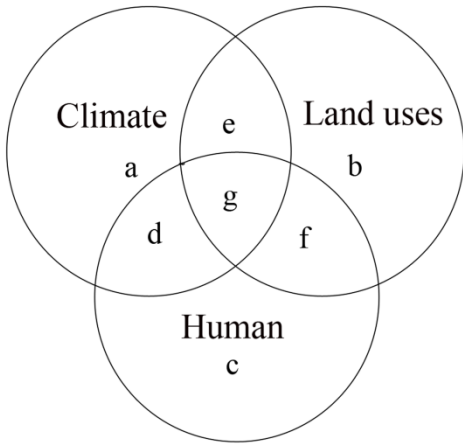
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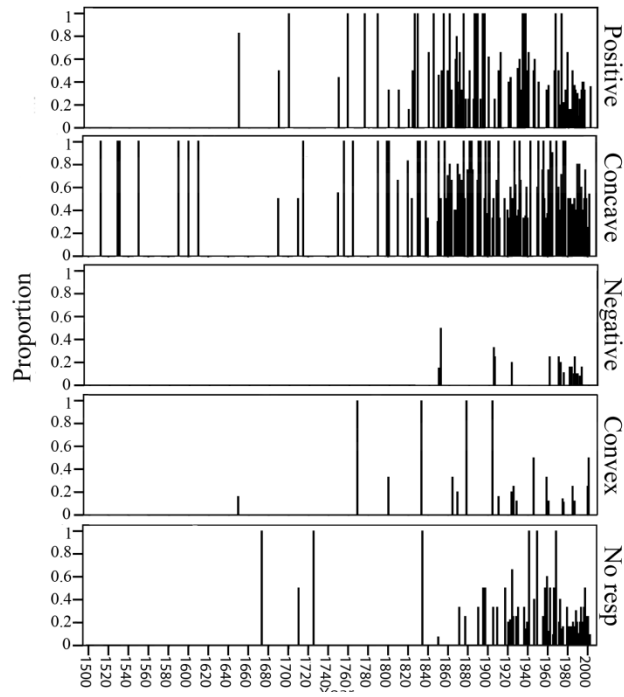
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