How birds weather the weather: avian migration in the mid-latitudes

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The analyses described herein are the result of a combined effort among scientists with backgrounds in biology, meteorology, physical geography, statistics, computer science, visualization, engineering, and others. Many of these scientists’ expertise overlaps several of these fields. It is their shared fascination with the world of birds and pervasive love of knowledge and science that has made this thesis possible. I have been privileged to know and benefit from this exciting and diverse group.

I am indebted to my promoter, Prof. dr. ir. Willem Bouten, and co-promoters, Dr. Judy Shamoun-Baranes and Dr. ir. Emiel van Loon, for giving me the opportunity to be involved in this cutting-edge research group. Whereas PhD students are often mentored by an individual supervisor with particular expertise, I was fortunate enough to benefit from this collection of mentors with a broad range of skills and knowledge. I learned from each of them, and their different backgrounds and styles resulted in my having a more multifaceted education. Our dialog was very open, and they were forthright with both criticism and praise. They valued my opinion and trusted my judgment, allowing me to travel much of Europe serving as a proud ambassador of the Computational Geo-Ecology (CGE) group. Beyond being helpful supervisors, with characteristics complimentary of one another, they are genuinely wonderful and interesting people, and I have enjoyed knowing them both in and out of the workplace.

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am perfect, and while I know better, her belief has kept me moving in the right direction. My father is responsible for instilling in me a penchant for skepticism, beneficial for scientific pursuits. My grandfather, around whom has developed a large, wonderfully-supportive, and loving family, is an inspiration for me, and I am continually impressed by his worldliness and vitality. My brother Reese, with whom I am most at ease, has always been my best friend. Being away from him has perhaps been the most challenging aspect of my time here. I have been proud to watch (though from afar) as he begins to cultivate his own beautiful family... welcome Marcelle! I have been fortunate to have positive figures in my life who, though not related by blood, I surely count among family. In particular, I am grateful for the guidance and support I received from Bill Carville and Butch Kerr.

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I could continue these acknowledgments until they eclipsed the length of the thesis itself and still not mention everyone who deserves my thanks, which in my opinion is quite a fortunate position in which to find oneself.