***Supplementary Material S2.*** *Model calibration*

*Calibration*

*Grazed grass sub-model.* Calibration of the grass dynamics at the field level was performed in three steps. First, the grass dynamics were calibrated by minimizing the mean squared error obtained from data from 74 ungrazed fields monitored in spring 2004 in the Marais Poitevin (France), which was our study area (46°22’ N, 1°25’ W). Second, the relationship between biomass and grass height was calibrated using data from 240 quadrats collected in 15 fields during the same period. Third, a monthly survey of cattle densities and grass heights in 12 fields that was performed in 2002 was used to calibrate *q*. Full details about this calibration have been published in Sabatier *et al.* (2010). After calibration, a mean squared error of 27 cm² was obtained, which corresponds to a 5.2 cm root mean squared error.

At the farm level, the model was calibrated to compare two contrasting types of farms (intensive vs. extensive). The intensive farm model was parameterized to represent the 10% of the most intensive farms in a data set of 67 farms from the Marais Poitevin (Tichit *et al.,* 2006). The extensive farm model represented the 10% most extensive farms from the same data set. In the model, differences between intensive and extensive farms were represented in *utot* and .

*Bird sub-model.* The model was calibrated for two bird species in our study area, the northern lapwing and the common redshank. Key elements of the birds’ life cycles are summarized in Figure S.2.1. Wader demographic parameters were based on data from the literature. Due to the lack of accurate data about the relationship between chick survival and grass height, we used a threshold approach that was similar to Tichit *et al.* (2007) and Sabatier *et al.* (2010). Mean chick survival published in the literature was used for the survival within the range of viable grass height and survival was assumed to be 25% of this value outside the viable height range. Population size was initialized at 100 individuals.

The values of all parameters are summarized in Table S2.1. and Table S2.2.

Table S2.1. Parameters used in the model. Differences in calibration between lapwing and redshank are indicated by L and R, respectively. Differences in calibration between intensive and extensive farms are indicated by int and ext, respectively.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Description** | **Value** | **Reference** |
| *α 2* | Number of eggs per sub-adult | 1.39 | Ottvall, 2004 |
| *α 1* | Number of eggs per adult | 1.52 | Ottvall, 2004 |
| *η* | Daily nest survival for 1 LU.ha-1 | 0.99 | Beintema & Muskens, 1987 |
| *σ* | Incubation time (days) | 26 | Kooiker, 1993 |
| *m* | Egg destruction due to mowing | 0.5 | Labisky,1957 |
|  |  |  | Berg *et al.,* 1992 |
| *s1* | Sub-adult survival | L: 0.6 | Peach *et al.,* 1994 |
|  |  | R: 0.7 | Insley *et al.* 1997 |
| *s2* | Adult survival | L: 0.7 | Peach *et al.,* 1994 |
|  |  | R: 0.8 | Insley *et al.* 1997 |
| *h(-)* | Minimal viable grass height (cm) | L: 0 | Durant *et al.* 2008 |
|  |  | R: 10 | Durant *et al.* 2008 |
| *h(+)* | Maximal viable grass height (cm) | L: 14 | Durant *et al.* 2008 |
|  |  | R: 20 | Durant *et al.* 2008 |
| *s0(suitable hab)* | Juvenile survival in viable grass height | L: 0.45 | Peach *et al.,* 1994 |
|  |  | R: 0.35 | Insley *et al.* 1997 |
| *s0(unsuitable hab)* | Juvenile survival in non-viable grass height | L: 0.011 | Tichit, 2007 |
|  |  | R: 0.0087 | Tichit, 2007 |
| *c* | Intra-specific competition coefficient | L: 0.001 | Tichit, 2007 |
|  |  | R: 0.0007 | Tichit, 2007 |
| *d* | Juvenile mortality due to movement | 0.2 | Blomqvist and Johansson, 1995 |
| *t\** | Incubation month | L: April | Durant *et al,* 2008 |
|  |  | R: May | Durant *et al,* 2008 |
| *t\*+1* | Chick rearing month | L: May | Durant *et al,* 2008 |
|  |  | R: June | Durant *et al,* 2008 |
| *tC* | Mowing month | May | - |
| u(+) | trampling constraint | 0,5 | - |
| p(-) | Land use proportion constraint | 0 - 40% | - |
| utot | Farm level stocking rate | Ext: 0.84 | Tichit *et al.,* (2006) |
|  |  | Int: 2.06 | Tichit *et al.,* (2006) |
| ufarm type | Maximum stocking rate in POG | Ext: 1.5 | Tichit *et al.,* (2006) |
|  |  | Int: 4.5 | Tichit *et al.,* (2006) |
| Br | Residual biomass | 62.5 g.m-2 | Tichit, 2007 |
| q | Daily feed requirement | 3,8 105 g.LU-1 | - |
| a | Biomass-height coeff. | 0.08 | - |
| β | Growth rate attenuation coefficient | 0.01 | Tichit, 2007 |

Table S2.2. Values of the grass growth related vectors.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Description** | **Value** |
| γ(t) | Grass growth rate | (0.009,0.009,0.126,0.137,0.486,0.450,0.450,0.450,0.450,0.450,0.0,0.0) |
| r2(t) | Senesence rates | (0.0,0.0,0.0,0.773,0.669,0.727,0.858,0.478,0.478,0.478,0.0,0.0) |
| r3(t) | Decay rates | (1.0,1.0,1.0,0.538,0.472,0.368,0.607,0.607,0.368,0.368,0.607,0.607) |



**Figure S2.1.** Timeline of the bird life cycles and farming activities.

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