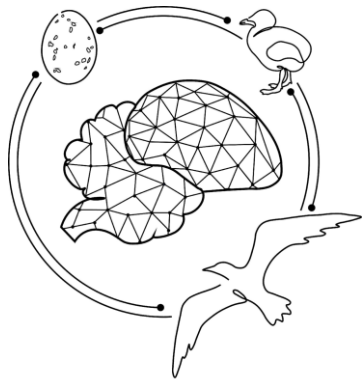


Publishing a preregistered report in the Royal Society Open Science

Sophia Knoch & Reinoud Allaert



Centre for Research on
Ecology, Cognition, and
Behaviour of Birds



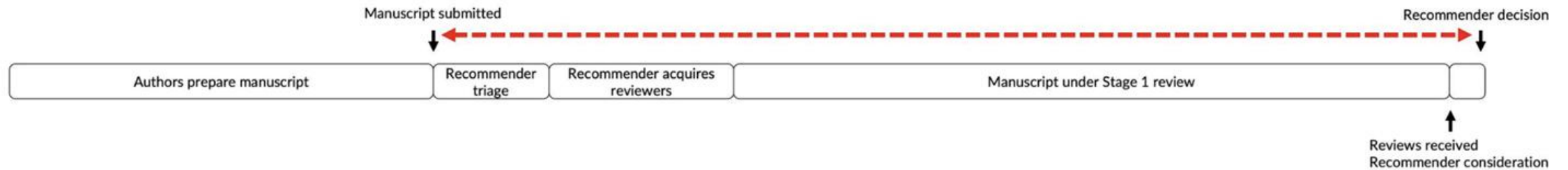
PCI Registered Report: RRs are a form of empirical article in which study **proposals** are **peer reviewed** and pre-accepted **before research** is undertaken.

Stage 1: Introduction + methods + data analysis plan

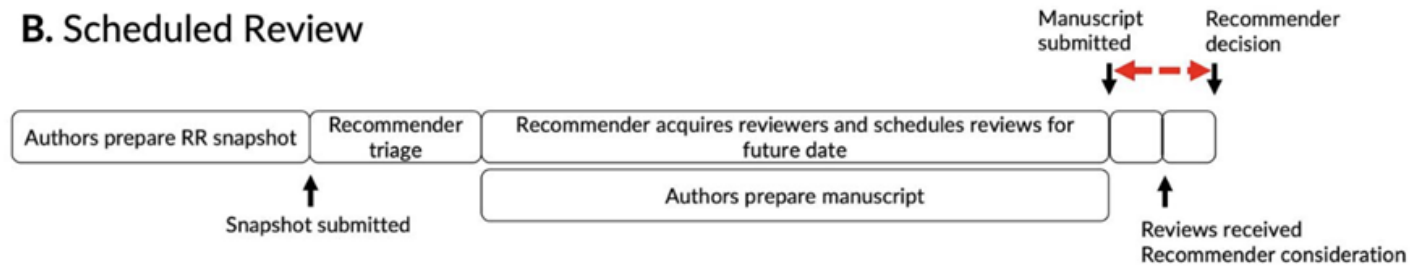
Stage 2: Full manuscript

Scheduled review

A. Standard Review



B. Scheduled Review



Stage 1 (Round 1) review time

Timeline: Stage 1



Submission started

Submission date: 16 February 2024

Abstract and snapshot (1 page summary of planned study)



Submission pending validation

Submission validated: 16 February 2024

Abstract and snapshot were accepted



Recommender needed

Invited: 0

Declined: 0

Recommender: [Ljerka Ostojic](#) (16 February 2024)

Recommender assigned



Round 1: Reviewers needed

Invited: 12

Declined or cancelled: 10

Agreed: 2

Scheduled reminders to the recommender to invite reviewers: no

Looking and assigning two reviewers

1st April: submission of introduction, methods, and planned analyses

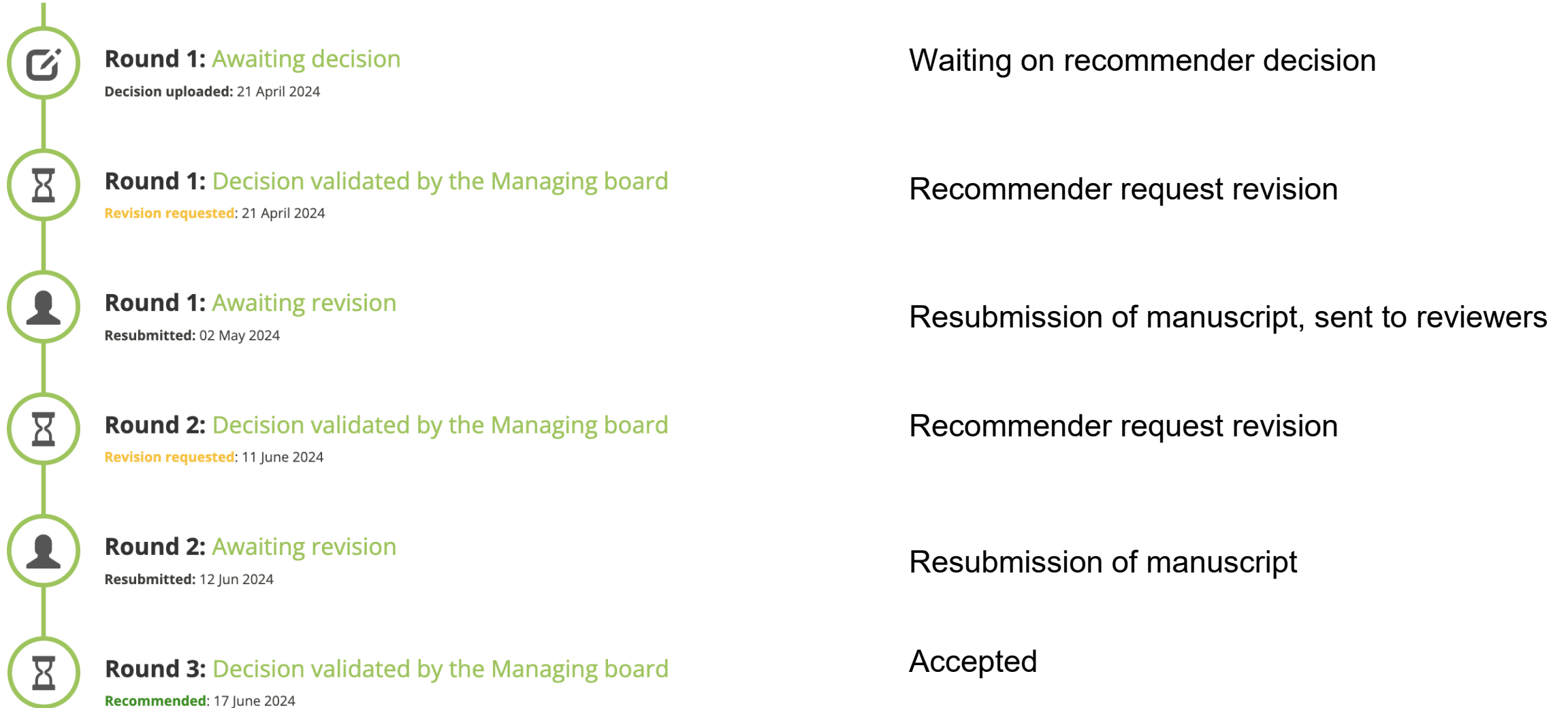


Round 1: Reviews underway

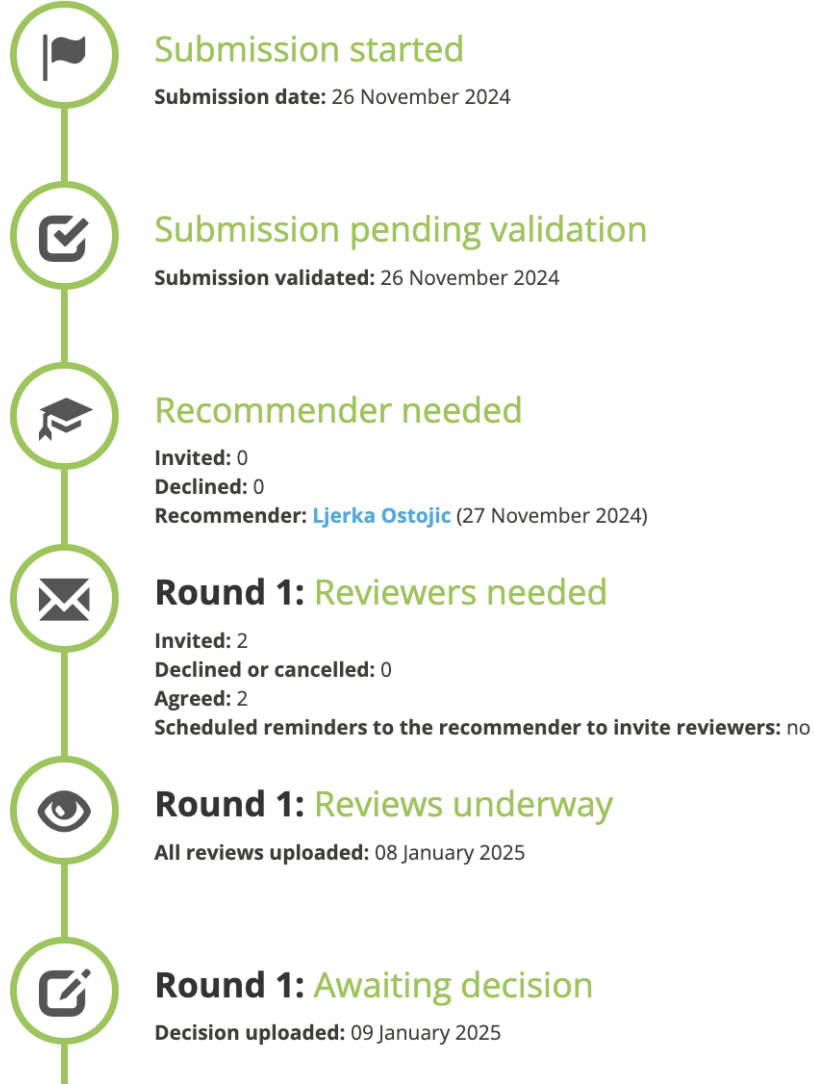
All reviews uploaded: 20 April 2024

Reviews came in

Timeline: Stage 1



Timeline: Stage 2



Submission of full manuscript

Same recommender assigned

Same reviewers assigned

Reviews came in

Waiting on decision from recommender

Timeline: Stage 2



Recommender request revision

Resubmission, new round of reviews

Recommender request revision

Resubmission, new round of reviews

Accepted


Submitting to Royal Society Open Science

25th February: 1st submission

5th of March: accepted

Registered report

Neophobia across social contexts in juvenile herring gulls

Reinoud Allaert[†] , Sophia Knoch[†], Simon Braem, Dries Debeer, An Martel, Wendt Müller, Eric Stienen, Luc Lens and Frederick Verbruggen

Published: 21 May 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.250398>

Cons

- Longer process
- Cumbersome forms
- Forced to communicate all changes in protocol, difficult to combine with animal work (deviations can lead to rejection of manuscript)
- Limited journal options
- Ethical approval must be in place early, but takes time
- No submission during closing times (December/January and July/August).

Pros

- Publication guaranteed (incl. null result)
- In principle acceptance even before data collection
- Better design & manuscript quality; feedback prior to study
- Cuts p-hacking/HARKing bias
- Structured protocol & deadlines
- Transparent and reproducible