

Table S1. Protein, lipid and carbohydrate content, and dry matter proportion for the two main prey of flamingos in the Camargue (*Artemias* and chironomid larvae).

| | Artemias | Chironomids |
|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Protein | 0.56 | 0.50 |
| Lipid | 0.12 | 0.14 |
| Carbohydrates | 0.12 | 0.15 |
| Water | 0.87 | 0.87 |

Table S2. Example of climate data used for modelling flamingo daily energy requirements. Here we show data for the two years during which cold spells occurred, and for two ‘normal’ years (for 2012, only data for four months were available).

| Year | Month | Air Temperature (°C) | | Relative Humidity (%) | | Wind speed (m s ⁻¹) | | Cloud cover (%) | |
|------|--------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|-----|
| | | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max | Min | Max |
| 1985 | Jan. | -1.89 | 6.45 | 54.51 | 78.87 | 3.03 | 14.8 | 0 | 1 |
| | Feb. | 4.35 | 13.28 | 60 | 88.21 | 1.5 | 10.75 | 0 | 1 |
| | March | 4.34 | 12.43 | 58.87 | 82.58 | 3.16 | 15.12 | 0 | 1 |
| | April | 8.48 | 18.72 | 47.5 | 81.16 | 2.76 | 15.33 | 0 | 1 |
| | May | 11.04 | 19.78 | 58.54 | 87.58 | 1.29 | 10.54 | 0 | 1 |
| | June | 14.45 | 24.86 | 50 | 81.16 | 1.93 | 11.66 | 0 | 1 |
| | July | 17.9 | 29.44 | 53.38 | 82.58 | 1.16 | 10.83 | 0 | 1 |
| | August | 16.18 | 27.38 | 52.9 | 83.38 | 1.45 | 11.38 | 0 | 1 |
| | Sept. | 14.57 | 27.31 | 50 | 86.33 | 1.6 | 10.33 | 0 | 1 |
| | Oct. | 11.58 | 21.35 | 60.32 | 89.35 | 2.5 | 12.25 | 0 | 1 |
| | Nov. | 3.55 | 11.18 | 58 | 82.66 | 3 | 13.92 | 0 | 1 |
| | Dec. | 4.73 | 12.29 | 70.8 | 87.9 | 3.12 | 13.16 | 0 | 1 |
| 2012 | Jan. | 3.65 | 12.39 | 51.65 | 84.26 | 2.2 | 13.58 | 0 | 1 |
| | Feb. | -0.32 | 8.1 | 34.24 | 66.48 | 5.5 | 21.36 | 0 | 1 |
| | March | 6.53 | 17.87 | 40.19 | 84.13 | 1.74 | 13.7 | 0 | 1 |
| | April | 9.24 | 17.47 | 47.7 | 84.9 | 2.15 | 16.67 | 0 | 1 |
| 1984 | Jan. | 2.15 | 10.57 | 65.32 | 87.9 | 1.48 | 12.58 | 0 | 1 |
| | Feb. | 1.74 | 10.33 | 58.27 | 84.13 | 2.62 | 13.86 | 0 | 1 |
| | March | 3.95 | 13.01 | 53.87 | 82.9 | 4.06 | 16.19 | 0 | 1 |
| | April | 5.93 | 17.92 | 42.66 | 81 | 2.43 | 14.5 | 0 | 1 |
| | May | 9.36 | 18.55 | 55.8 | 85.8 | 2.64 | 13.35 | 0 | 1 |
| | June | 14.09 | 25.41 | 48.33 | 83.83 | 1.86 | 12.76 | 0 | 1 |
| | July | 16.55 | 28.16 | 56.29 | 83.38 | 2.7 | 13.35 | 0 | 1 |
| | August | 16.17 | 27.38 | 50.64 | 85.48 | 2 | 11.64 | 0 | 1 |
| | Sept. | 13.41 | 23.3 | 51.33 | 85.83 | 1.8 | 12.36 | 0 | 1 |
| | Oct. | 9.96 | 20.06 | 59.67 | 91.29 | 2.32 | 12.22 | 0 | 1 |
| | Nov. | 8.19 | 16.96 | 63.5 | 87.66 | 1.86 | 11.73 | 0 | 1 |
| | Dec. | 3.14 | 11.59 | 65.96 | 87.58 | 2.22 | 12.35 | 0 | 1 |
| 2011 | Jan. | 2.84 | 9.95 | 62.81 | 86.26 | 2.91 | 13.68 | 0 | 1 |
| | Feb. | 4.55 | 12.62 | 56.39 | 86.68 | 1.84 | 13.46 | 0 | 1 |
| | March | 6.3 | 15.39 | 53.68 | 88.06 | 1.54 | 12.89 | 0 | 1 |
| | April | 10.16 | 21.5 | 38.37 | 87.9 | 1.22 | 12.9 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|---|---|
| May | 13.15 | 25.03 | 34.55 | 87.03 | 1 | 13.1 | 0 | 1 |
| June | 15.81 | 25.27 | 44.17 | 86.03 | 1.26 | 12.64 | 0 | 1 |
| July | 17.08 | 27.24 | 39.26 | 82.71 | 1.64 | 13.25 | 0 | 1 |
| August | 16.88 | 28.68 | 42.61 | 90.52 | 0.74 | 10.78 | 0 | 1 |
| Sept. | 15.48 | 27.07 | 43.4 | 90.57 | 0.86 | 10.94 | 0 | 1 |
| Oct. | 11.4 | 21.99 | 45.06 | 86.61 | 1.88 | 13.08 | 0 | 1 |
| Nov. | 10.32 | 16.65 | 65.17 | 90.27 | 1.64 | 11.83 | 0 | 1 |
| Dec. | 5.04 | 13.16 | 56.26 | 87.68 | 1.3 | 13.45 | 0 | 1 |

Table S3. Sensitivity analysis for estimated flamingo energy requirements, expressed as the % increase (positive value), or decrease (negative value) of the average daily energy expenditure (kJ d^{-1}). +10% and -10% mean climatic parameters and mean adult input parameters are used to simulate variable input. Significant variations in energy requirements (>1%) are in bold. For climatic parameters, the minimum and maximum considered do not include values from cold spells.

| Parameter | Average for males and females | | Males | | Females | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Min/-10% | Max/+10% | Min/-10% | Max/+10% | Min/-10% | Max/+10% |
| Morphology | | | | | | |
| Feathers length | 0.48 | -0.41 | 0.53 | -0.40 | 0.55 | -0.42 |
| Feathers diameter | 0.081 | 0.14 | 0.053 | 0.18 | 0.10 | 0.11 |
| Plumage depth | 3.97 | -3.54 | 3.99 | -3.54 | 3.97 | -3.55 |
| Plumage density | 0.37 | -0.23 | 0.35 | -0.22 | 0.38 | -0.25 |
| Plumage reflectivity | -0.058 | 0.069 | -0.054 | 0.00 | -0.064 | 0.073 |
| Body dimensions | -10.29 | 10.99 | -10.16 | 10.79 | -10.64 | 11.18 |
| Physiology | | | | | | |
| Body temperature | -4.44 | 12.10 | -4.33 | 11.80 | -4.58 | 12.49 |
| O ₂ extraction efficiency | 0.94 | -0.74 | 0.93 | -0.73 | 0.96 | -0.75 |
| Digestive time | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Flight parameters | | | | | | |
| Fly altitude | 0.011 | -0.011 | 0.01 | -0.01 | 0.012 | -0.12 |
| Flight velocity | 0.00 | 0.51 | -0.52 | 0.46 | -0.64 | 0.57 |
| Time spent flying | -0.32 | 0.32 | -0.37 | 0.37 | -0.26 | 0.26 |
| Flight metabolism | -0.34 | 0.34 | -0.39 | 0.39 | 0.00 | -0.26 |

Climatic parameters

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Air temperature | 6.15 | -9.15 | 5.99 | -8.95 | 6.35 | -9.41 |
| Relative humidity | -0.16 | 0.22 | -0.15 | 0.21 | -0.16 | 0.23 |
| Wind speed | -0.0084 | -0.001 | -0.012 | 0.00091 | -0.0032 | -0.0015 |

Table S4. Sensitivity analysis for estimated flamingo energy requirements for birds wintering in the Camargue in January 1985 and February 2012. Variability is expressed as the % increase (positive value), or decrease (negative value) of the average daily energy expenditure (kJ d^{-1}). +10% and -10% mean climatic parameters and mean adult input parameters are used to simulate variable input. Mean parameters values for males and females confounded are used. Significant variations in energy requirements (superior to 1%) are in bold.

| Parameters | January 1985 | | February 2012 | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Min/-10% | Max/+10% | Min/-10% | Max/+10% |
| Morphology | | | | |
| Feathers length | 0.47 | -0.40 | 0.48 | -0.40 |
| Feathers diameter | 0.019 | 0.210 | 0.024 | 0.200 |
| Plumage depth | 4.33 | -3.85 | 4.30 | -3.83 |
| Plumage density | 0.34 | -0.20 | 0.34 | -0.21 |
| Plumage reflectivity | -0.023 | 0.017 | -0.031 | 0.023 |
| Body dimensions | -11.63 | 12.42 | -11.50 | 12.28 |
| Physiology | | | | |
| Body temperature | -3.32 | 9.04 | -3.41 | 9.30 |
| O ₂ extraction efficiency | 0.49 | -0.40 | 0.52 | -0.42 |
| Digestive time | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Flight parameters | | | | |
| Fly altitude | 0.013 | -0.013 | 0.013 | -0.013 |
| Flight velocity | -0.81 | 0.73 | -0.78 | 0.70 |
| Time spent flying | -0.24 | 0.24 | -0.25 | 0.25 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Flight metabolism | -0.26 | 0.26 | -0.26 | 0.26 |
| <hr/> | | | | |