

Review of: "Compact, Consumer Off the Shelf Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (COTS-RPAS) in Observing *Haliastur indus*, the Kali, or Brahminy Kites"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This was a very informative and readable article. As a remote sensing specialist I am unable to comment on the zoological content of the article, but I have the following specific suggestions:

1. Comment on the significance of the fact that your off-the-shelf RPAS system was so effective for this study: COTS-RPAS democratizes ecological research as they are very affordable and readily obtained, putting powerful tools in the hands of more researchers.
2. The following change is suggested for the caption in Figure 3. Replace the term 'vegetation combination' with "False color composite for highlighting vegetation density (Near Infrared 2, yellow, Red Edge)". Italicize *bambusa*.
3. Comment on how COTS-RPAS equipped with an optical zoom may be even more suitable for this kind of work (i.e., Mavic 2 Zoom), as opposed to your current systems, which have digital zoom. Optical zoom sensors allows the COTS-RPAS to be operated from further away with a lesser commensurate loss in image resolution
4. Redundant '(iff)' in line 8 of conclusion.

Once again, congratulations on a very well written and interesting article, I enjoyed reading it. The author might be interested to hear an anecdote of mine utilizing a COTS-RPAS in the field. I was doing an archaeological survey in Quinhagak, Alaska, when my airborne Mavic Pro was aggressively approached multiple times by a jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Luckily the impact detection sensors took control away from me and dodged the jaeger until it gave up and flew away.