

Review of: "Culture Lockdown, Nature Freedom: Respite for Biodiversity during the COVID Pandemic – A Limited Case Study in La Union, Philippines"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper aims to discuss the impact of human activities on a particular raptor population – Brahminy kites. The COVID-19 lockdown period gave an important glimpse on how a reduction in human activities affects these raptor populations. The author utilized this interesting period/phenomenon for the study. Since healthy raptor populations are also indicative of a healthy ecosystem, author extrapolates the conclusions to discuss about biodiversity in the study areas.

While the study is extremely crucial for an ecological assessment of Brahminy kite populations and the study period takes place during an interesting period which allowed to observe impact of zero human interference in current era, the overall conclusions of the study come across as overstatements. Further details and recommendations are given below,

1. As had been previously mentioned, this paper discusses about the Brahminy Kite population and not biodiversity. This should be reflected as it is in the title, abstract and the paper. The importance of this species as a biodiversity indicator has been established in the introductory paragraph and may be expanded up on.
2. To come to conclusion that Brahminy kite visited the study sites more during the lockdown period, please include some data from previous years recorded in the seasons/period (when these readings were taken (January – June and August – February)).
3. Please provide the exact dates and details of the lockdown periods and the government policies on human activities (such as transportation, human gatherings, etc. – for indicators may see Oxford COVID government response tracker <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/covid-19-government-response-tracker>)
4. "As a precursor, continuous data points were transformed into ranked, ordinal data" Please provide details of your methodology in the methods section and provide analysis data wherever possible.
5. I am unable to grasp how different data collected at meso-, micro- and macro- scales were utilized and combined. Further details regarding this are required in the methods section. Again, please provide more details/data in supplementary information wherever feasible. Also include how was the raw filtered and curated for quality control for the study.
6. "Arguably the Brahminy kite views the drone or RPAS as a smaller bird." Can this potentially create bias in data

collection? Please discuss.

7. Can you please indicate on the map the 13 data points used as study site? Also, since these sites seem to have different features (some seem to be more forested vs some that are saturated with human presence), can you provide a table and distinguish according to these features? If feasible, also provide in the table Brahminy kite sighting frequency (wherever recorded), in two additional columns from the two recoding periods.

8. Please indicate the purpose, aims and objectives of the study in the introduction.

9. Please indicate the limitations of the study, also clearly mention what should be the future direction.

10. Please add a discussion section and discuss the implications of the study.

11. As you have mentioned in the introduction, the study organism or raptor is called Brahminy kite or kali or Lawin. While it is good to mention this, please be consistent with the organism nomenclature through the text, either use Brahminy kite or kali.

12. Revising the English and grammar of the paper would help in increasing the readability.