

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.

The article is interesting. I have a few suggestions to improve upon this work.

1. The title is misleading, as it deals with a single species of bird, rather than a range of biodiversity. There is no evidence that Brahminy kite is a keystone species, which may represent the biodiversity status in an ecosystem. The title and introduction should clearly state that this is a study of BK sighting frequency in association with COVID-19 restriction phases, and nothing more.
2. The data is scanty, with $df = 12$, with a significant kurtosis. Also, the figure shows that the mean of the mean of sighting records is less than the variance. In this case, a general linear model (GLM) with negative binomial link function is more appropriate than a linear model of correlation. Kendall's tau alone in this small sample size is not enough to detect significance at a high confidence level.
3. Given that human excursions and depredation of wild habitats led to a higher frequency of sighting of BK, an ecological explanation is warranted. The author describes the bird as the top predator in the food web, so one must show that the availability and abundance of prey at lower trophic levels increased during the lock down periods. Alternatively, more nesting/ breeding habitat for the bird became available during the lock down. In either case, some data about the availability of more resources (food or habitat) would give the paper more ecological meaning.
4. The usage of the term "dialectical" is somewhat obfuscating and unnecessary, because it is not clearly defined in the context, and because it does not reveal any new insight. The "Dialectics of Nature" *sensu* Friedrich Engels is evident in the process of advancement of science building on novel discoveries, which change our understanding of the workings of nature. In this paper's context, the "dialectical process" is at best unclear.