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

Nicolás Molina Padrón[1]

1 Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The author highlights the utility of the COTS-RPAS for avian observation, specifically to study the Kali species typical in Philippines. The author has documented an experience with the use of UAVs (DJI models Mavic Pro 2 and Mavic Mini) to film these eagles in a context which, until now, had not been possible (for example, the observation of the upper part of the Kali's wings) for technological reasons.

The results obtained by the author are useful for the study of avian biodiversity in this region. Furthermore, these results could be a reference for extrapolating his experiences to other regions of the planet where studies on eagles (or other birds) behaviours are carried out.

Finally, I can conclude that the work carried out by the author has a great value for the biodiversity conservation techniques. I therefore recommend that the results be published in this journal. However, I would like to take this opportunity to point out some improvements that the author should implement to make his article more consistent, based on my own opinion:

1) Some reference about the dangers of UAVs in bird watching should be included. Particularly, a reference would be missing in this part of the document:

"*In summary the debate against is use has centered on the disturbance introduced by the mechanical nature of a drone. This is true for earlier COTS-RPAS but arguably this is has been largely mitigated with the advent of COTS-RPAS.*"

2) I suggest a general revision of the document to avoid (as far as possible) some long sentences which have been exposed. An improvement in English could also be beneficial for the article.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the author on his publication and hope that he will continue to improve this research.