



**RAPTORWATCH
NETWORK
PHILIPPINES**



4th International Summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors

sawi

サシバ

灰面鵟鷹

เหยี่ยวหน้าเทา

왕새매

helang-rintik utara

elang kelabu





The background of the entire page is a light beige color with several faint, stylized illustrations of birds in flight. A large bird is prominently featured in the lower left, with its wings spread wide. Other smaller birds are scattered across the upper and middle sections of the page.

4th
International
Summit
on **Grey-faced**
Buzzard
and **Migratory**
Raptors

23 - 25 March 2024
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan
PHILIPPINES



POPULARIZATION. Young streetdancers during the celebration of the Sanchez Mira Coconut Festival in 2023 featured the Grey-faced Buzzard as “guardians of Cocolandia.” (photo by Tryme Studio)

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TOURISM EMBLEM. Illustrated by digital artist and muralist Arthus Casugay in the year 2022 at the start of Mayor Abraham Bagasin's administration, this emblem is an interpretation of the phrase "Nest of Love" -- a line in the Sanchez Mira Waltz composed decades ago by Mrs. Feliza Florentino -- which has been adopted as an endearing tagline of the town up to the present.

This digital artwork features some of Sanchez Mira's most well-known products and lifeways.

The nest cradles on its floor a number of our best-sellers: fruit wine, coconut juice, and the Sanchez Mira Longganisa -- a savory, garlicky pork sausage commonly served as breakfast fare.



Sanchez Mira Nest of Love

Our traditional dependence on fisheries and agriculture is represented by a man angling and a woman carrying a bundle of pregnant rice stalks.

Our indigenous peoples are represented by an Agta/Atta girl, proudly presenting a basket, their community's main craft.

A coconut palm grows out of the nest, since Sanchez Mira is known as the home of the *Sanchez Mira Tall* variant, which consistently produces the largest and meatiest coconuts in the Philippines.

Standing nobly as one of the symbols of local heritage is the Tubtubong Giant, dressed as a king. The Tubtubong or Infantes is a dagger fight dance usually performed during the Yuletide season by villagers of Magacan, Sanchez Mira.

Finally, on the shoulder of the giant, and looking out for its next meal of the day, is our Sawi, the Grey-faced Buzzard. It is hoped that with this cordial depiction of a sawi feeling right at home within the Nest of Love, the message of conservation is subliminally imparted.

Sanchez Mira Primer: The Town and its Biodiversity

Sanchez Mira is a relatively young political unit, only celebrating its 130th foundation year this 2024. But its history of human settlement can be traced centuries before this, as it has long been peopled by the indigenous Agta/Atta who were nomadic hunter-gatherers, the Ibanag who were rice farmers, and the mountain-dwelling Iapayao, Isneg, and a handful of Ikalunga who made this coastal territory -- idyllic, fecund, and nourished by watersheds of the Gran Cordillera Mountain Range -- one of their stomping grounds for game and marine product barter.

Ilocano families from Paoay eventually migrated to

SATOYAMA IN SANCHEZ MIRA. Many areas of our town -- bounded by the Babuyan Channel at north and the Cordillera Mountain Range down south -- fit the characteristics of a satoyama. (photo by Tryme Studio)



this area at around the middle of the 1800s.

It is due to the Ilocano migrant influx that the areas formerly under Pata in Claveria and Bangan in Pamplona, and the small villages in between them, were merged to form a new municipality. This new town was named "Sanchez Mira" in honor of Brigadier General Manuel Sanchez Mira of Jerez de la Frontera in Cadiz, Spain who served as Military Governor of Cagayan Valley in the Philippine island of Luzon from 1884 to 1885.

The tireless Ilocano migrants eventually became the majority of Sanchez Mira's population, clearing out more plains -- mostly nestled between foothills and the sea -- for rice and vegetable cultivation, and eventually, hectares upon hectares of coconut plantations.

It is in these human-altered pockets where the Grey-faced Buzzard, what Ilocanos call the *sawi*, makes its transitory home, curiously preferring to roost atop coconut palms over most other trees amongst Sanchez Mira's elevated areas.

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPOSURE. High-frequency social media use of Sanchez Mira residents has led to better networking and information relay regarding rescued species and special flora. In the past 12 months alone, the heightened awareness on conservation triggered by the Facebook-publicized visits of Raptorwatch Network Philippines and the Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network (ARRCN) resulted to heightened coordination of citizens with Sanchez Mira's Tourism and Information Office (TIO) and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).

From top to bottom: Juvenile Grey-faced Buzzard rescued in Callungan, Sanchez Mira; Brahminy Kite rescued in Namuac, Sanchez Mira (photos by Carla Ocampo); Philippine Serpent Eagle rescued in Namuac, Sanchez Mira (photo by Nikki Tolentino); Olive Ridley Marine Turtle hatchlings rescued in Masisit, Sanchez Mira (photo by Dexter Asuncion); Philippine Jade Vine, recorded in Mt. Makanakanabbang, Sanchez Mira (photo by Lester Valle).



According to 2018 data from CENRO Sanchez Mira, the municipality is home to several unique species of birds including the near-threatened Philippine Fairy Bluebird (*Irena cyanogastra*) and Northern Sooty Woodpecker (*Mullerpicus funebris*), the vulnerable Calayan Rail (*Gallirallus calayanensis*) and Northern Rufous Hornbill (*Buceros hydrocorax*), and the endangered North Philippine Hawk Eagle (*Nisaetus philippinensis*) and Visayan Hornbill (*Penelopides panini*). There have also been sightings here of the critically endangered Isabela Oriole (*Oriolus isabellae*) and the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*).



RUFIOUS-HEADED BEE-EATERS. This was in Sitio Minanga, in the village of Namuac in Sanchez Mira. Shot by young lensman Raphael Manglallan, who turned his camera upwards to the sky to photograph birds when he assumed the role as one of the youth ambassadors for the Grey-faced Buzzard in 2024. Sanchez Mira lacks its own high-quality photographs of bird species found here. Manglallan now aims to fill the gap.

A Brief History of Sawi Conservation in Sanchez Mira

In the old days, the skies of the Philippine North grew thick and heavy with flocks of the Sawi – the Grey-faced Buzzard – flying in droves and casting shadows that swept steadily along fields and homes below.

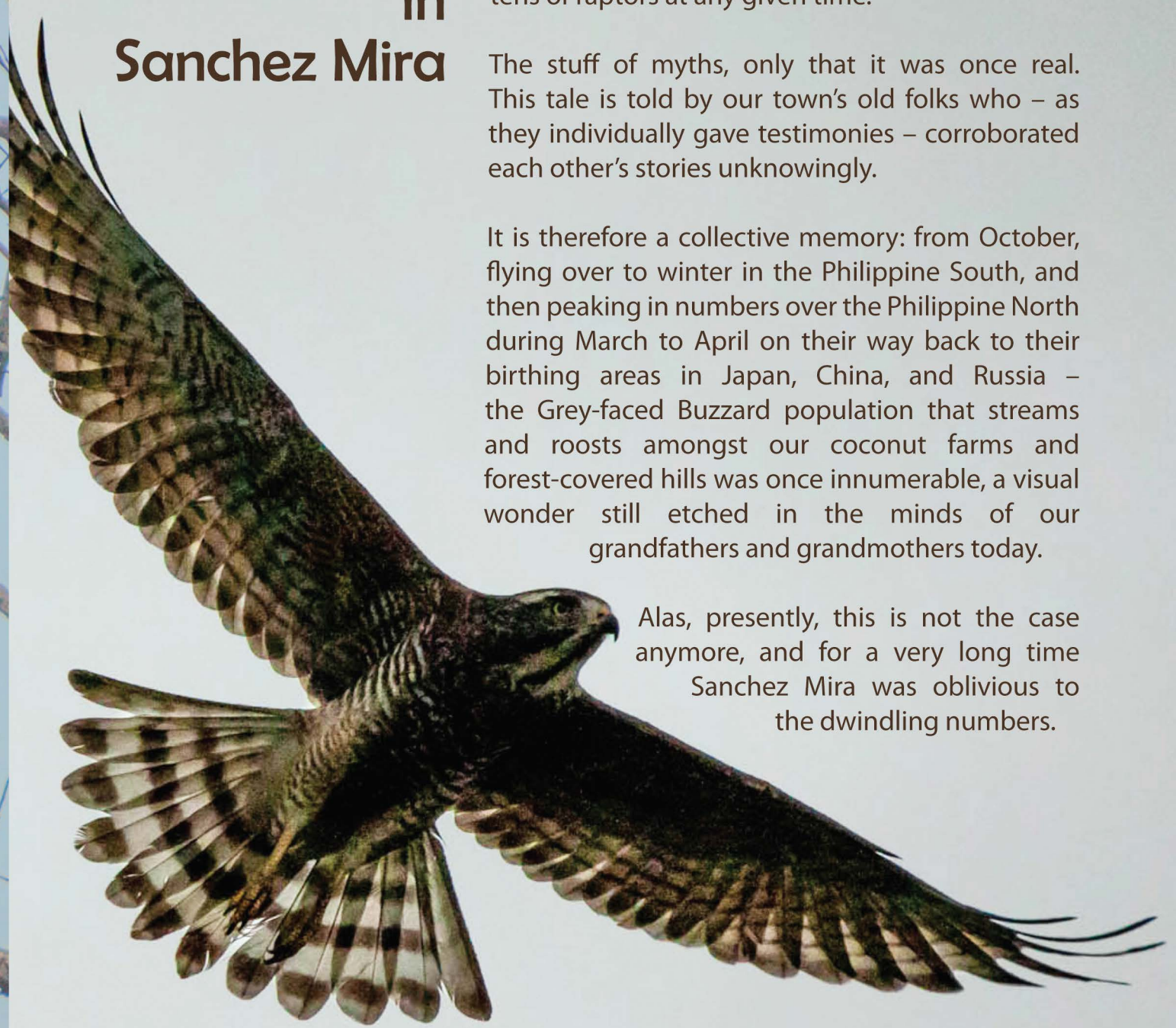
They were like traveling clouds, elders say, and when they perched and roosted on tall coconut palms, a crown of fronds would be studded with tens of raptors at any given time.

The stuff of myths, only that it was once real. This tale is told by our town's old folks who – as they individually gave testimonies – corroborated each other's stories unknowingly.

It is therefore a collective memory: from October, flying over to winter in the Philippine South, and then peaking in numbers over the Philippine North during March to April on their way back to their birthing areas in Japan, China, and Russia – the Grey-faced Buzzard population that streams and roosts amongst our coconut farms and forest-covered hills was once innumerable, a visual wonder still etched in the minds of our grandfathers and grandmothers today.

Alas, presently, this is not the case anymore, and for a very long time Sanchez Mira was oblivious to the dwindling numbers.

A ROBUST BIRD. Photographer George Lacson caught this shot of a Grey-faced Buzzard in flight at Los Baños, Laguna -- a territory in the southern part of Luzon Island, PH.



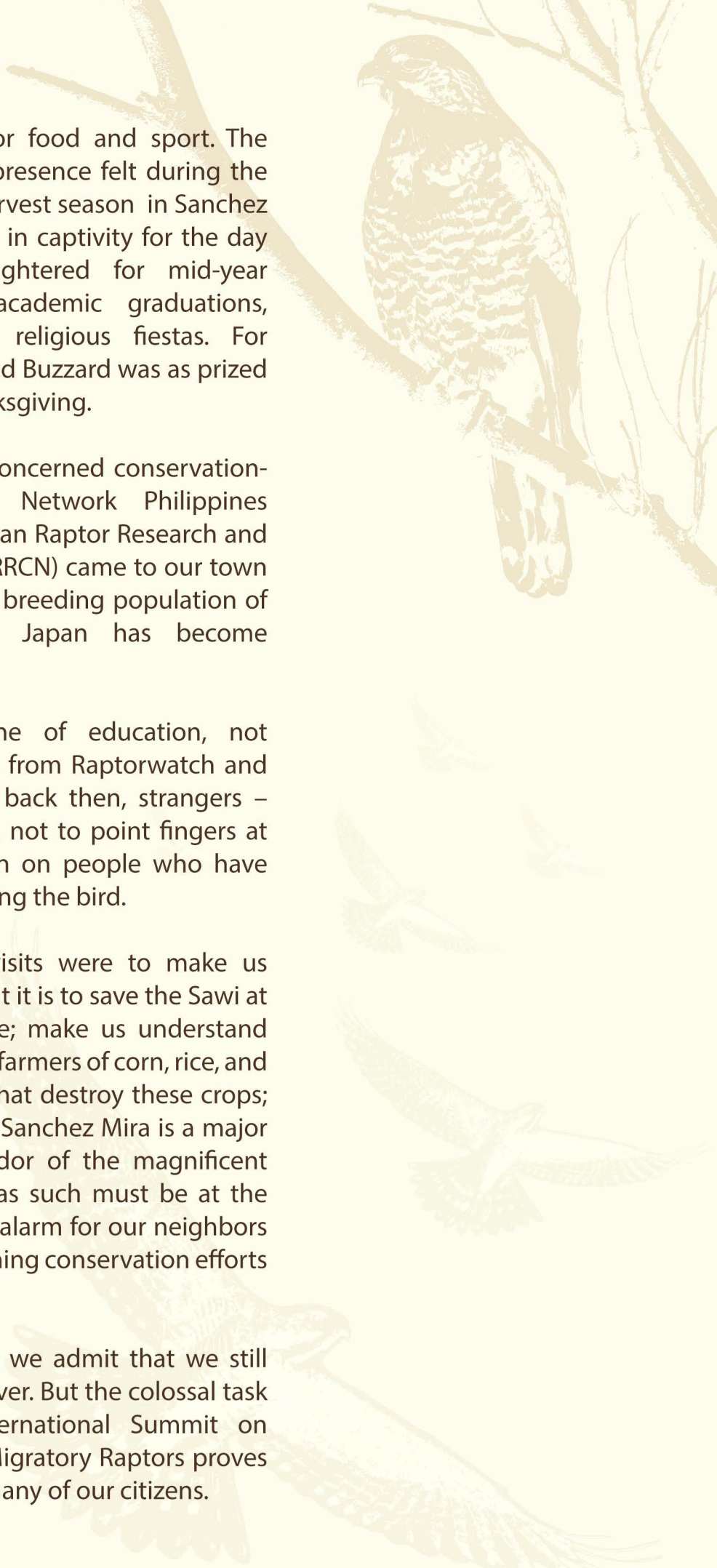
Hunting was rampant, for food and sport. The Sawi, after all, makes its presence felt during the onset of the traditional harvest season in Sanchez Mira. Injured birds waited in captivity for the day they were to be slaughtered for mid-year celebrations such as academic graduations, farmers' banquets, and religious fiestas. For generations, the Grey-faced Buzzard was as prized a dish as a turkey for Thanksgiving.

This went on, until very concerned conservationists from Raptorwatch Network Philippines (Raptorwatch) and the Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network (ARRCN) came to our town to humbly announce: the breeding population of Grey-faced Buzzards in Japan has become threatened .

Their approach was one of education, not persecution. Our partners from Raptorwatch and the ARRCN – who were, back then, strangers – came gently to our town, not to point fingers at hunters, nor to talk down on people who have grown accustomed to eating the bird.

Their calm and caring visits were to make us understand how important it is to save the Sawi at the soonest possible time; make us understand how the Sawi is a friend to farmers of corn, rice, and coconut by eating pests that destroy these crops; make us understand how Sanchez Mira is a major part of the Flyway Corridor of the magnificent Grey-faced Buzzard, and as such must be at the forefront of sounding the alarm for our neighbors to follow suit in strengthening conservation efforts across our territories.

Today, in self-effacement, we admit that we still have a lot of ground to cover. But the colossal task of hosting the 4th International Summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors proves to be a turning point for many of our citizens.



From the impressive turn-around effected by Raptorwatch and ARRCN's educational campaigns over a decade ago, more and more Sanchez Miranians are now understanding the gravity of our role, due to the attention consistently drummed up for this event, this 2024.

Many are now realizing we must take up this responsibility not just for the ecological balance of our own town, but of the entire GFB Flyway Corridor which includes the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, the Korean and Indochine Peninsulas, and Malaysian Borneo – territories from where we are expecting majority of the attendees for this year's convergence.

This international summit provides the most apt occasion for us to expand our conservation areas to our neighboring towns and regions via ceremonial linkages, and eventual legislation.



SOWING THE SEEDS. In this 2015 file photo, Alex Tiongco of Raptorwatch Network Philippines delivers a lecture for students of the Cagayan State University campus in Sanchez Mira. (Photo from Raptorwatch)



YOUNG AMBASSADORS. The Sanchez Mira Tourism and Information Office kicked off a series of lectures with hundreds of kids being made to understand the life cycle and flyway corridor of the Grey-faced Buzzard, and why it must be protected. Each lecture ends with a spirited photo op, with the kids doing the Sawi Gesture to remember the day by. (Photo by Andrei Peregrino)

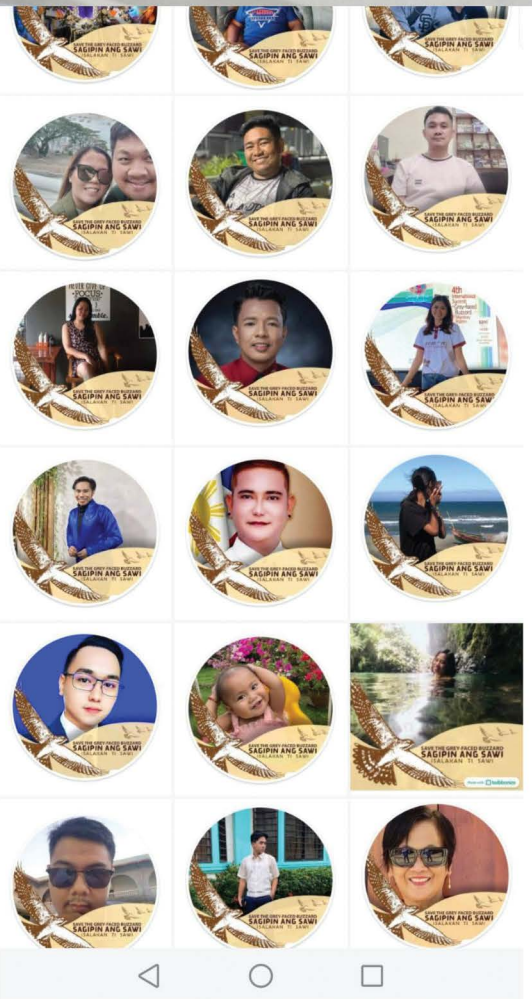
This Summit has also given us the impetus to institutionalize Sawi educational campaigns in our town, not only during the visits of our partners, but – from this day onward – year in and year out, with local universities and colleges also being counted on to take the lead.

As Alex Tiongco would always tell us during days of frustration over bull-headed hunters, culture change does not happen overnight. Sanchez Mira still has a long way to go on the path of safeguarding the Sawi and other vulnerable, endangered, and critically endangered wildlife.

It is hoped that the 4th International Summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors becomes the spark that ignites more torches of citizens moving out of the shadow of ignorance and into the light of environmental conservation.



DP BLAST. Sanchez Miranians and other delegates of the Summit participated in the Display Photo Blast using Twibbons of the Sagipin ang Sawi Campaign. It resulted to a 400% increase in reports of hunter activity due to heightened awareness.



4TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON GREY-FACED BUZZARD & MIGRATORY RAPTORS

4TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON GREY-FACED BUZZARD & MIGRATORY RAPTORS
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, Region II, Philippines



MARCH 23, 2024 (SATURDAY)

PRELIMINARIES

Venue: Sanchez Mira Rizal Park + Sanchez Mira People's Gym

5PM

Bazaar Opening Program

Preliminaries (Prayer, National Anthem Recordings)

Message of Support

Regional Director Leah P. Ocampo
Department of Trade and Industry

Bazaar Opening and Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

Pagpuputong (Filipino Welcome Dance)

Sanchez Mira National High School

Tour of the Bazaar

6PM

Welcome Dinner

Registration

Dinner + Serenade

Winning Teachers from the DepEd Sanchez Mira District

Message of the Governor of Cagayan

Gov. Manuel Mamba, Sr.

Roll Call + Distribution of Summit Kits

Master of Ceremonies

MICO DIMANLIG-SADORRA

BRYAN SADORRA

MARCH 24, 2023 (SUNDAY)

SUMMIT DAY 01

Venue: Sanchez Mira People's Gymnasium

7:30AM

**Grand Welcome for the Dignitaries in front of the
Municipal Hall + Sanchez Mira People's Gymnasium**

8AM – 8:05 AM

Doxology

Mr. DARWIN D. BLANCO
Member, Faculty of Instruction, CCJE, CSU

8:06 – 8:15 AM

Lupang Hinirang

Cagayan Hymn

Sanchez Mira Hymn

SANCHEZ MIRA DISTRICT TEACHERS CHORALE
DepEd, Sanchez Mira District



4TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON GREY-FACED BUZZARD & MIGRATORY RAPTORS
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, Region II, Philippines



- 8:16 – 8:25 AM Acknowledgment of Participants**
Ms. CARLA P. OCAMPO
Summit Co-Convenor
- 8:26 – 8:35 Opening Remarks/Welcome Address**
Hon. BGen ABRAHAM B. BAGASIN (Ret)
Local Chief Executive, LGU-Sanchez Mira
Overall Summit Convenor
- 8:36 – 8:46 Intermission Number “Lapay Bantigue”**
KAYAW DANCE TROUPE
The Culture and the Arts Council, CSU-Sanchez Mira
- 8:47 – 8:55 Solidarity Message**
Dr. TORU YAMAZAKI
President & Founder
Asian Raptor Research & Conservation Network (ARRCN)
- 8:56 – 9:05 Solidarity Message**
Dr. ARTHUR G. IBAÑEZ, ASIAN ENGR.
OIC- Office of the University President, CSU
- 9:06 – 9:15 Solidarity Message**
Hon. AKIRA MOTOYAMA
Mayor, Uken Village, Japan
- 9:16 – 9:40 Solidarity Message**
Hon. FERDINAND C. JUMAPAO
Undersecretary, Department of Tourism
- 9:41 – 9:58 Intermission Number “Sinakiki”**
KAYAW DANCE TROUPE
The Culture and Arts Council, CSU-Sanchez Mira
- 10AM – 10:30 Keynote Lecture 1**
Residents Meet Migrants: Convergence of Raptors as Flagship for Nature Conservation in the Philippines
Dr. JAYSON C. IBAÑEZ
Director for Research & Conservation, Philippine Eagle Foundation
- 10:31 – 11:30AM OPEN FORUM**
- 11:31 – 12:30PM LUNCH BREAK**
(Reminder: Registration for Audit)
- 1PM COUNTRY REPORTS**
1:00 – 1:25 Philippines
Atty. ALEX TIONGCO
Raptorwatch Network Philippines



2019

4TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON GREY-FACED BUZZARD & MIGRATORY RAPTORS
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, Region II, Philippines



1:20 – 1:45

Japan

Dr. GO FUJITA Research Associate
Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences
The University of Tokyo, Japan

1:45 – 2:10

Taiwan

Dr. TSAI YI-HUA
Raptor Research Group of Taiwan

2:10 – 2:15

South Korea (Videographed)

Dr. HANKYU KIM
Ornithologist, Department of Biology
Kyung Hee University, South Korea

2:20 – 2:45

Malaysia

Mr. RON PUDIN
President, Sabah Birdwatchers Association, Malaysia

2:45 – 3:30

OPEN FORUM

3:35

MUSIC & FRIENDS “Paraiso”

The Singing Trio,
The Culture & Arts Council, CSU-Sanchez Mira

4PM

TRAVEL TO GFB ROOSTING SITES OBSERVATION OF ROOSTING GFBs

(Danak West, Callungan, Sanchez Mira)

6PM

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (BAGGAK Hotel Poolsite & Events Ground)

Karaoke Night
Open Mic

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. VERLINO D. BADDU
Dean, College of Teacher Education

Facilitators:

Dr. SHELLA B. CACATIAN
Coordinator, Internationalization, Partnership & Resource Mobilization
Dr. ALLAN O. DELA CRUZ
Coordinator, Academic Affairs



4TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON GREY-FACED BUZZARD & MIGRATORY RAPTORS
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, Region II, Philippines

MARCH 25, 2023 (MONDAY)

7:30AM

Field Trips / Rest Time

Boatride along Minanga Estuary / Pata River (approx. 1 hour)
or View of Streaming GFBs at Nagbaranganan Park (approx. 1 hour)
or Sanchez Mira Tour (approx. 2 – 3 hours)
or Free Time

SUMMIT DAY 02

Venue: Sanchez Mira People's Gym

10AM

Opening Performance “Gakka Dance”

Masisit Elementary School

10:10AM

Keynote Lecture 2

Gaps in Raptor Research in the Philippines

Carmela Española, PhD
Associate Professor, University of the Philippines

10:40AM

Lecture

Northern tip of Luzon, Philippines: A Nexus of the East Asian Migration Flyway for GFB and other Raptor Species

Michael Calaramo
Associate Professor, Northwestern University

11:10AM

Open Forum

11:30AM

Lunch Break + Working Lunch for Mayors

(Reminder: Registration for Audit)

1:30 PM

Special Performance “Ang Pipit”

Soloist from KAYAW CSU
The Culture and Arts Council, CSU-Sanchez Mira

1:35 PM

Panel Talk: Sharing of Local Experiences

Elimar Doca
Narcitas Biado-Ouano, PhD
SBM Napoleon Malto

2PM

Open Forum

2:30PM

Signing of the Summit Declaration

Mayors of Northwestern Cagayan, Northern Apayao, and Pagudpud

3PM

Handover Ceremony: PHL to JPN

Mayor Abraham Bagasin (Sanchez Mira, Philippines)
Mayor Akira Motoyama (Uken, Japan)

Master of Ceremonies

MICO DIMANLIG-SADORRA
BRYAN SADORRA

Sanchez Mira

4TH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON GREY-FACED BUZZARD & MIGRATORY RAPTORS
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, Region II, Philippines



**CLOSING AND MASS PHOTO OPS: SAWI GESTURE
FREE TIME @ BAZAAR**

7PM

Culmination Dinner (Sanchez Mira People's Gymnasium)
Sanchez Mira Senior Citizens Rondalla + 5 Loaves // 2 Fishes
Dinner Serenade: Joel Puzon and Friends
Namuac Academy Jota
Messages of Commitment from VIPs
CSU Tinikling (Participative)

Master of Ceremonies

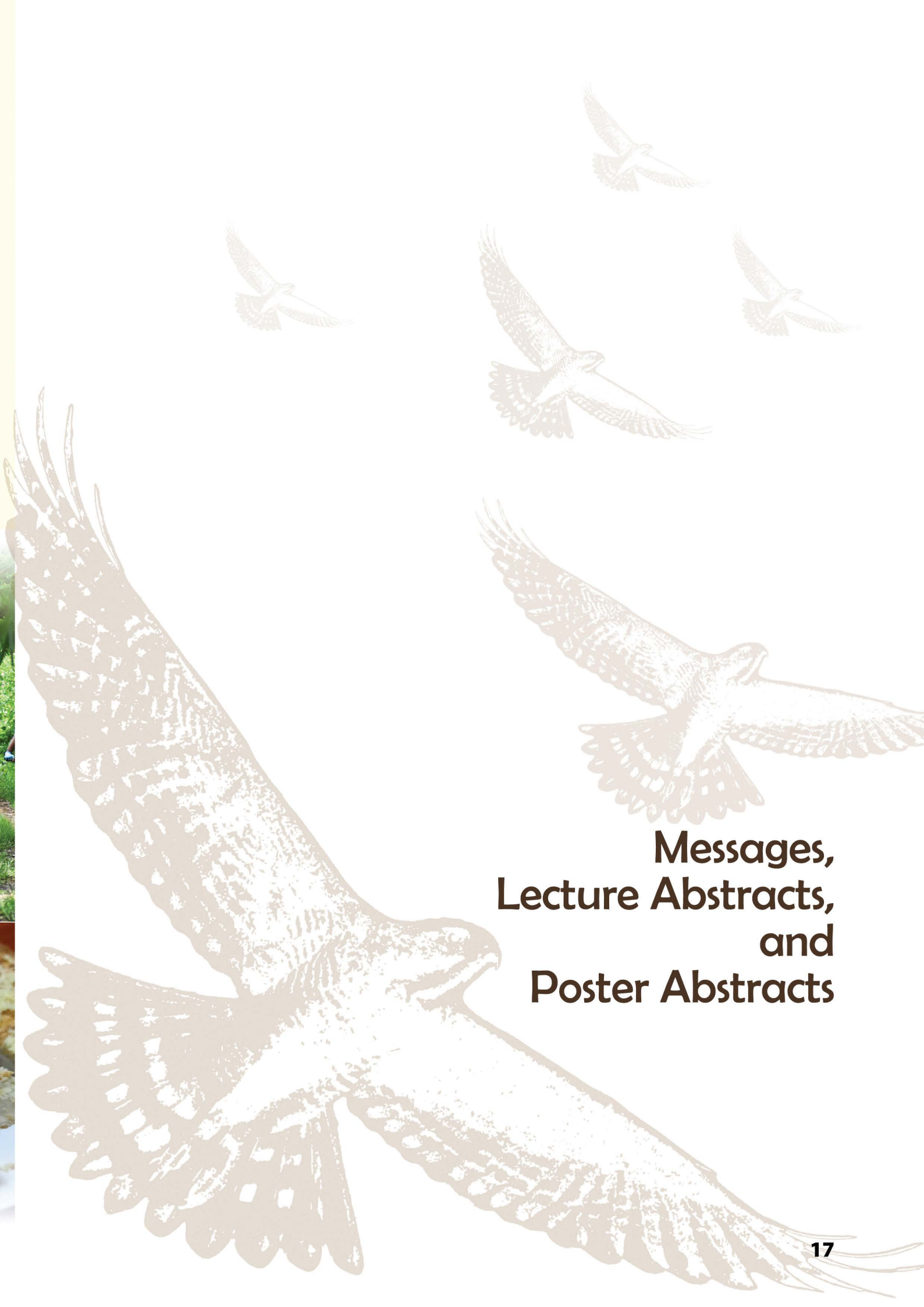
MICO DIMANLIG-SADORRA
BRYAN SADORRA



SANCHEZ MIRA C.A.G.E.
CLEAN | LIVABLE | EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE



LOVE THE PHILIPPINES



**Messages,
Lecture Abstracts,
and
Poster Abstracts**



**ABRAHAM
BAGASIN**

Mayor
Sanchez Mira
PHILIPPINES

It has been a tense and very busy five months since the last International Summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors held in Taiwan. We thank our predecessors from Japan's Ichikai and Miyakojima, and Taiwan's Manzhou / Kenting for setting the bar high in terms of organizational precision and scientific impact. We can only hope to give justice to what they have already started.

Just over a decade ago, Sanchez Mira still hunted the Grey-faced Buzzard in insane numbers. A typical hunter would come home with a sackful of injured or dead birds ready for the pot. And we talk of not just one, nor ten, nor just twenty hunters. We talk about the majority of men in this town, arming up for sport, or looking to catch or buy the evening dish for his family or beermates.

But education came by way of our now partners. And as the current mayor of this town, I am building upon and strengthening that foundation that was laid many years ago. We have improved law enforcement, and updated our ordinance banning the hunting, handling, selling, and buying of Sawi, or the grey-faced buzzard.

We have revived educational lectures, and have also heightened online awareness. More and more people are asking questions about the grey-faced buzzard. More and more Sanchez Miranians are reporting about wild birds that they rescued and surrendered to our Community Environment and Natural Resources Office. Many are discovering the joys of birdwatching. And this is just the beginning.

Thank you all for bearing with the Philippines. We are in the infancy stage when it comes to raptor research and conservation efforts. But with your help and guidance, we hope to finally fill this gap and be a powerhouse for environmental concern and action in the Asia Pacific Region. MABUHAY!

On behalf of the people of Amami Island, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Mayor of Sanchez Mira and all the staff for organizing the 4th Summit on Grey-Faced Buzzards and Migratory Raptors. This summit is a crucial opportunity to discuss the conservation of these endangered species, and we are grateful for the efforts.

According to research conducted by various organizations, the population of Grey-Faced Buzzards is threatened with extinction. It is widely known that these birds serve as an indicator of how well the environment is preserved. Therefore, we need to take concrete action to protect them.

Since the first summit in Ichikai town, all united municipalities among its flyways have strengthened cooperation to protect breeding and wintering sites.

As one of the wintering sites, we will continue various conservation actions. To obtain momentum among residents on Amami, we occasionally hold picture exhibitions and birdwatching events. We sincerely appreciate related companions' support for these initiatives, especially educational programs in schools. Students' intentions and behavior are growing more than ever, as are Amami's people; these days, two local newspapers often have featured articles on Grey-Faced Buzzards.

Regarding tourism with bird watching, we have learned that Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, is an innovative area. We are exploring the potential of birdwatching tourism in our village. We look forward to having this valuable opportunity.

Lastly, I hope this vital occasion brings everyone a bright future and happiness.



**AKIRA
MOTOYAMA**

Mayor
Uken Village
JAPAN

Ichikai, a Town that Protects Grey-faced Buzzards from Extinction

Ichikai is engaged upon constructing the "Framework of town planning to make a Grey-faced Buzzard as its symbol," which aims to achieve both the conservation of the ecosystem, setting the grey-faced buzzard on its top, and local promotion through the utilization of the ecosystem services it provides.

Last year, following the "Declaration of Zero Carbon Town, Ichikai", we made the "Organic Village Declaration". And this spring we have formulated the town ordinance, that zones the habitat of grey-faced buzzards and punishes one in the case of taking them without my permission.

In order to protect the grey-faced buzzard from extinction, we will do our utmost to restore the paddy fields that are important for their breeding and to preserve the global environment through interaction between cities and rural areas.

If the grey-faced buzzard would be to go extinct, not only their breeding, stopover, and wintering grounds would be affected, but also the global ecosystem would collapse, and the survival of the human race would be severely impacted.

So I am committed to launching a series of concrete measures to protect them from extinction. Like the flock of birds which we watched in Taiwan last autumn, we must unite and take action together.



**MASAAKI
IRINO**

Mayor
Ichikai
JAPAN

Congratulations on holding the 4th International summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors in the Philippines today.

The Grey-faced Buzzards, designated as the city bird of Miyakojima City, visits the island as a stop-over site for wintering every year. In the past, the sky over the island was blackened by Grey-faced Buzzards.

However, due to poaching and environmental changes including deforestation, the number of migratory birds has been gradually decreasing.

Surveys of migratory numbers by Bird Association and other organizations also show that, in recent years, there have been years that less than 10,000 Grey-faced Buzzards have been observed, even though more than 50,000 at its peak.

Therefore, we have been making efforts to solve the problem ①by creating a resting forest for the herring Grey-faced Buzzards ②inviting local students to migratory count surveys, and we are trying to promote awareness of the need to conserve them.

Through these activities, the number of their migration exceeded 10,000 last year for the first time in three years, although the number is still on the decline compared to previous years. Thus, we will continue striving to preserve the environment that serves as a stopover site for the Grey-faced Buzzards through promoting conservation, education, and investigative work.

Finally, we hope that this summit will greatly contribute to the development of international awareness of the protection of the Grey-faced Buzzard.



**KAZUYUKI
ZAKIMI**

Mayor
Miyakojima City
JAPAN



**TROY ALEXANDER
MIANO**

Regional Director
Department of Tourism
Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)
PHILIPPINES

The Department of Tourism, Region 2 Office extends our heartfelt congratulations on the successful staging of the 4th International Summit on Grey-Faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors.

This summit stands as a pivotal event aimed at fostering awareness and conservation efforts for the grey-faced buzzard, an integral species within our regional and international ecosystem.

Your unwavering dedication and commitment have not only heightened awareness but also synchronized the event with the goals stipulated in the National Tourism Development Plan 2023-2028, under the administration of Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco. This alignment underscores our collective endeavor to promote ecologically sustainable tourism practices and contribute to the diversification of our tourism portfolio.

We would like to express our profound appreciation to the Local Government Unit of Sanchez Mira, and the Provincial Government of Cagayan for their steadfast dedication and support in conserving these birds and their invaluable contribution to the development of responsible tourism.

Furthermore, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to all the agencies, organizations, and stakeholders whose tireless efforts and resources have contributed to the realization of this event. We also acknowledge the intensification of international relationships and collaboration forged during this summit for the protection and conservation of raptors.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of this summit, let us seize upon the momentum garnered and reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the preservation of migratory raptors and the safeguarding of our natural heritage.

Just a few years ago, when Raptorwatch first came to Sanchez Mira, it was a sleepy 4th Class Municipality and we were unable to find a hotel. Now here we all are, hosted in an international Summit. It has been quite a journey.

Sanchez Mira is a great roosting area for Grey-faced Buzzards on their way to breed in Japan, Northern China and Russia. However, it was also the place where traditional hunting of the Grey-faced Buzzard was extensively practised.

Happily, Sanchez Mira positively responded to the call of conservation and it has become one of the few areas in the world where traditional hunting has been effectively stopped. Effectively stopped because being a traditional practice, it dies hard. There will always be hard hearts, recalcitrants and adventurers. That is why education must continue.

It is our dream that Sanchez Mira and leaders from other Philippine provinces create lasting working relations with conservation leaders and communities from other countries present here today. There is so much to be learned from the exchanges.

Our schools and universities can partner with schools and universities abroad for the study of our 35 species of diurnal raptors found in the Philippines – specifically (because this is of immediate need) the DNA testing and the satellite tagging of the Grey-faced buzzards to learn where they breed and where else they roost in the Philippines, for more effective cooperative conservation projects.

There are so many projects we all can cooperate on, and learn from this international cooperation on how to cope with development without sacrificing nature conservation. There is a whole future ahead of us! We in the Philippines have only just begun.



**ALEX TIONGCO &
MARIA TERESA CERVERO**

Founders
Raptorwatch Network
PHILIPPINES



**TORU
YAMAZAKI**

President
Asian Raptor Research and
Conservation Network
JAPAN

I am incredibly pleased to hold the 4th International Summit on the Grey-faced Buzzard in the Philippines. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all members of the Organizing Committee in Sanchez Mira City who have devoted themselves to preparations for this engaging Summit.

When I visited Sanchez Mira in 2014. I was so excited to hear that enormous numbers of the Grey-faced Buzzard are roosting in Coconut Trees and heading for North-east every day in March. At the same time, I was so shocked to know approximately 5,000 individual birds had been killed by illegal shooting every year.

However, now, Sanchez Mira City is the paradise of not only the Grey-faced Buzzard but also all life by continued tremendous efforts by government offices, universities, local communities, coconut farmers, and any related organizations to stop illegal poaching, conducted since 2015. I confirm that Sanchez Mira is one of the most blessed towns by warm heart and rich biodiversity in the world.

The International Summit on the Grey-faced Buzzard will be an opportunity for people in each wintering, stopover and breeding areas gathering to strengthen the cooperation among local governments for conservation efforts. Moreover, since the Grey-faced Buzzard stand on the top of the ecosystem pyramid, conservation of the Grey-faced Buzzard leads to conserving rich natural resources and rich biodiversity which support all life of each local area.

I am sure this Summit will provide precious opportunities for all participants to be inspired and encouraged by each other, thereby creating a new conservation stage for the benefit of both humans and the Grey-faced Buzzard throughout Asia forever.

The Grey-faced Buzzard symbolizes the Satoyama environment. Unlike larger raptors such as the Philippine Eagle or the Hawk-eagle, it does not need extensive areas of pristine forest for its habitat. Instead, it inhabits Satoyama environments, which are closely intertwined with human lives.

The ways in which previous generations utilized natural resources differ greatly from those of today. The Grey-faced Buzzard was once an important source of protein along its migration routes. People consumed its meat, and its specimens were used to make crafts. Nowadays, through social media, bird-watchers along these routes upload messages about the arrival of the buzzards, garnering more attention from the public and highlighting the role of citizen science in conservation research. These changes in mindset stem from legal regulations, the effectiveness of education, and, of course, from residents' recognition and appreciation for wildlife.

In 2022, the Convention on Biological Diversity launched the new Global Biodiversity Framework, aiming to protect 30% of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030. It suggests that future conservation efforts should not only focus on traditional protected areas but also include habitats close to human settlements. Many such “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures” (OECMs) overlap with human activity areas, providing critical protection for habitats typical of the Grey-faced Buzzard. On the other hand, global corporations must also assume responsibility for environmental protection. Biodiversity conservation will emerge as a universal value for the new generation, with migratory raptors playing a pivotal role in connecting transnational conservation efforts.

This is the miracle created by migratory raptors—through flights without borders, birds dissolve the differences among nations, uniting us from different countries as one.



**LIN
SI-MIN**

President
Raptor Research Group of
TAIWAN



**KOICHI
ENDO**

President
Goshawk Protection Fund

Chairperson of the Board
Wildbird Society of
JAPAN

I bring this message on behalf of the Goshawk Protection Fund and the Wild Bird Society of Japan.

Congratulations on holding the 4th International Summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors. I am very grateful and honored to have been invited to this wonderful conference.

I live in Ichikai-Town, Tochigi Prefecture, central Japan. The GFB breeds in a high density in this town, where there is a Satoyama environment rich in biodiversity. It is also the area where the first International Summit on GFB and Migratory Raptors was held in 2019.

Every year, many fledglings of GFB leave the nest there and depart for southern countries in the fall. Some of them may be wintering in the Philippines. I would like to express our deep gratitude to the people of this country, including the citizens of Sanchez Mila, who watch over them warmly.

International cooperation is required to conduct extensive studies and conserve migratory raptors, such as GFB. I pray for the success of this conference, and hope that exchanges will continue to be active in the many countries and regions where the GFB and migratory raptors live, and that the conservation of them and biodiversity will advance.

When several conservation groups trooped to Sanchez Mira about a decade ago, it was the Cagayan State University that opened its doors for them to conduct important lectures that opened the eyes of students and campus faculty and staff to the importance of conservation efforts for the Grey-faced Buzzard.

As we gather for the 4th International Summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors, let us forge a pact of stewardship, safeguarding not only the breeding grounds but the very essence of its existence.

The Grey-faced Buzzard is not just a bird; it is a testament to our shared responsibility towards the natural world. May this summit be a beacon of hope, guiding us towards a future where the Grey-faced Buzzard soars unhindered across skies unbound by threat or fear. Let us heed the call of conservation, bridging divides and fostering collaboration to ensure the continued survival of this magnificent raptor.

As we embark on this journey, may our actions speak louder than words, echoing a commitment to protect all creatures, great and small.

Join us in this endeavor, as we stand united in our resolve to safeguard threatened species and uphold the sanctity of our natural heritage. Let us shape a future where harmony between humanity and winged denizens of the sky reigns supreme.

As the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the University President of the Cagayan State University, I convey my heartfelt felicitations to Sanchez Mira, where one of the satellite campuses of the University is situated, for spearheading and hosting this International Summit.



**ARTHUR
IBAÑEZ**

Asian Engineer
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the University President
Cagayan State University
PHILIPPINES

ABSTRACT: COUNTRY REPORT PHILIPPINES

Making A Case for Responsible Development

Sanchez Mira, in positively responding to the call of conservation, has become one of the few areas in the world where traditional hunting has been effectively stopped. We say effectively stopped because being a traditional practice, it dies hard - there will always be hard hearts, recalcitrants and adventurers. That is why the drive for community conservation awareness and education must continue.

But let us not rest on our laurels.

There are still other imminent threats to our conservation effort in the name of development. These threats are now being faced by our foreign partners present here today from Korea, Japan and Taiwan. Solutions and reasonable reconciliations are still being developed and it is timely that the problems be brought up here in this summit.

We should be clear on the outset that Raptorwatch Network Philippines are not against development. We are for development – responsible development which should not be destructive, disruptive and displacive. We would rather see development with a local conservation soul.

What are some of these threats?



(Photo by Raphael Manglallan)

1) Land conversion and development for subdivisions and large supermarkets. God forbid that this be done by people outside of Sanchez Mira who are only after the bottom line of huge profit. We would not like to see the community of Sanchez Mira supplanted and landless nor would we like to see local entrepreneurs displaced. We would rather see a Sanchez Mira pristine and owned and developed by its own community – the Sanchez Miranians, with the aim of preserving its patrimony – the “sawi”, which is the very reason why we are all gathered here today.

2) Windmills. Again, we are not against windmills, they provide renewable and sustainable energy and a great conservation effort. However, windmills can impede flyways and are dangerous to flying birds. They should be properly zoned and planned in such a way that they can do least harm.

3) Solar Panel farms. Again, we are not against them, they provide renewable and sustainable energy and a great conservation effort. However, they are voracious space consumers and we have seen them in other countries where rice fields and forests have been destroyed in order to accommodate these panels.

We are confident that together with the other flyway countries involved with this Summit in the spirit of sharing, cooperation and partnership, there will be developed reasonable solutions to these growing-up pains without compromising our conservation gains so far achieved.



**ALEX TIONGCO &
MARIA TERESA CERVERO**

Founders
Raptorwatch Network
PHILIPPINES

ABSTRACT: COUNTRY REPORT JAPAN

Predicting Future Biodiversity in Farmland Landscapes with Apex Predator: Grey-faced Buzzards



(Photo by George Lacson)

Japan serves as a significant breeding ground for grey-faced buzzards worldwide. The breeding distribution of these birds spans approximately 1,500 kilometers from the southern region of Kyushu to their northern limit in the Tohoku region, covering multiple climatic zones from warm temperate to cool temperate.

Since the 1990s, grey-faced buzzards in Japan have played a crucial role in conservation studies and activities, symbolizing the rich biodiversity in farmland landscapes. Farmland makes up 12% of Japan's total land area, with roughly half being paddy fields. In Japan's naturally grassland-scarce environment, farmland has acted as an alternative, serving as vital habitats for indigenous species for thousands to tens of thousands of years.

Despite this, the biodiversity in these farmland landscapes faces significant threats on a large scale across the country due to (a) urban development and excessive land use in agriculture and (b) farmland abandonment resulting from a decline in farmer populations. Particularly, the latter, farmland abandonment, is rapidly advancing, raising concerns about its severe impact.

To address the extensive future forecasts of the impact of farmland abandonment on biodiversity, we focused on the habitat selection of the apex predator in these landscapes—grey-faced buzzards.

For this analysis, we utilized data from both citizen and professional scientists who studied the breeding distribution of buzzards for 5 to more than 10 years at five landscapes located in Tohoku, Kanto, Chubu, and Kyushu regions.

As a result, we demonstrated that, for gray-faced buzzards in these regions, mosaic landscape structures with various elements are crucial, with specific emphasis on the importance of boundaries between paddy fields and secondary forests for their breeding habitats.

On the other hand, in southern regions, forests and grasslands become more critical, indicating regional variations in significant landscape elements.

As a second step in our study to elucidate the ecological factors generating regional differences, we examined the preferred landscape factors for breeding buzzards and the distribution of prey organisms in Kyushu, located in the south of the breeding range, and Tohoku, located in the north.

The results revealed that in the warm temperate region (Kyushu), where grasshoppers and crickets are abundant, semi-natural grasslands along the edges of paddy fields and around cultivated areas serve as important habitats. In the cool temperate region (Tohoku), where voles preferring grasslands and wetlands are prevalent, ponds and the surrounding grasslands emerged as crucial habitats.

Based on these findings, we believe that for the conservation of breeding habitats for grey-faced buzzards in farmland landscapes, it is crucial not only to understand the relationship between buzzard distribution and landscape structure but also to comprehend the spatiotemporal dynamics of the prey community inhabiting these areas.



GO FUJITA

Laboratory of Biodiversity Science
School of Agriculture and
Life Sciences
University of Tokyo

(GFB illustration by Go Fujita)

ABSTRACT: COUNTRY REPORT TAIWAN

Reversing The Irony: Reconfiguring Locations of Renewable Energy Sources vis-a-vis Habitat Conservation



The majestic passage of the Grey-faced buzzard has been immortalized in the poetry and annals of history by literati, while inhabitants of settlements regard it as a gift from nature, serving as a vital food source.

As the notion of conservation gained traction and the practice of hunting wild animals fell out of favor with public sentiment, the tradition of hunting gray-faced buzzards gradually faded into obscurity. This transition was facilitated through the enactment of conservation laws, educational initiatives, public advocacy, and rigorous law enforcement efforts, all of which were the culmination of forty years of concerted endeavors by both the government and the people.

The results of the autumn migratory raptor survey in Kenting, conducted since 1989, indicate a steady growth in the population of Grey-faced buzzard.

However, as the government sets carbon reduction targets in response to climate change, the policy direction of developing renewable energy sources ironically becomes the greatest threat to habitat conservation.

We recommend prioritizing the installation of solar panels on rooftops, reducing the operating speed of wind turbines during migratory peaks, and avoid locating power generation equipment in ecologically sensitive areas.

Identifying suitable installation sites will highly rely on prior resource surveys, such as biological resource surveys in ponds, wetlands, and hill areas, as well as clarifying the migration corridors, flight heights, and transit times of migratory birds.

These works can not only provide background data to avoid ecologically sensitive areas in site selection, but also compare the changes in biodiversity before and after development, providing a basis for future revisions in site selection and planning of conservation measures.



TSAI YI-HUA

Raptor Research Group of
TAIWAN

ABSTRACT: COUNTRY REPORT MALAYSIA

More Data for Sabah: Filling Up the Puzzle



(Photo by Ron Pudín)

On behalf of Sabah Birdwatchers Association, we are honoured to be invited for the 4th International Summit on Grey-Faced Buzzard & Migratory Raptors at Sanchez Mira, Cagayan Philippines.

Raptors provide a comprehensive overview of the diverse avian species inhabiting the region, highlighting both resident and migratory species.

Malaysian Borneo has 42 species of birds of prey within the families Falconidae, Accipitridae, Strigidae, and Tytonidae, including several species endemic to Borneo. The least studied Bornean Falconet or White-fronted Falconet and Kinabalu Serpent Eagle are Sabah treasures, which only can be found in Northern Borneo.

The Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network (ARRCN) plays a crucial role in supporting these endeavors by facilitating collaboration among researchers, conservationists, and policy-makers.

Through data collection, research initiatives, and advocacy, ARRCN aids in developing effective conservation strategies tailored to the unique needs of raptor species in Sabah. By fostering international cooperation and knowledge exchange, ARRCN enhances conservation efforts, ensuring the long-term survival of raptors and their habitats in Malaysian Borneo.

One of the association's long-term missions is to identify the northern migration route entry point taken by Raptors that cross over from Palawan Island. We have recorded sightings of Grey-faced Buzzards throughout the years but lack data to support the real numbers that are wintering or passing through Sabah.

We hereby seek expertise from the summit delegates to solve this conundrum.

Kotobian!



RON PUDIM

President
Sabah Birdwatchers Association
MALAYSIA

ABSTRACT: KEYNOTE LECTURE #1

Residents Meet Migrants: Convergence of Raptors as Flagship for Nature Conservation in the Philippines



(Photo from PEF)

Carnivores, because of their critical role in ecological food chains, play an important part in maintaining the health of ecosystems where they belong.

In the Philippine archipelago where large and medium-sized terrestrial carnivores are sparse, the country's "Raptors" or "Birds-or-Prey" appear to act as ecological keystones of the various Philippine ecosystems.

The country has 33 species of diurnal raptors, and the largest and highly endemic Philippine eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi* holds the reputation of being the country's forest apex predator.

As a very charismatic species that requires large tract of forests to survive, the Philippine eagle is a very important flagship and umbrella species for nature conservation. As an IUCN "critically endangered" species, it is also a practical "trigger" species for conservation decisions.

But we also argue that diurnal raptors who winter in the Philippines, with their ancient ties to their wintering sites across the country, can play an equally important role as trigger, flagship and umbrella species for nature conservation.

Using primary and secondary data on movement and distribution patterns of Philippine eagles and migratory raptors wintering in the Philippines, we show evidences of shared habitats for Philippine eagles, other resident raptors and migratory raptor species. We will discuss how these habitat overlaps can be a boon to conservation.

In addition, we also argue the great potentials of enhancing and popularizing international collaborations between countries and local communities that host the breeding sites and wintering sites of migratory raptors as a viable strategy for biocultural conservation in the country.



JAYSON IBAÑEZ

Director for Research &
Conservation
Philippine Eagle Foundation
PHILIPPINES

ABSTRACT: KEYNOTE LECTURE #2

Gaps in Raptor Research in the Philippines

Raptors and their habit of feeding on other vertebrates make them important bioindicators. Their position on top of the food web enables them to provide clues about the health of the ecosystem in which they live. They act as sentinels of different local and large-scale environmental changes and global threats to biodiversity.

Because they are widespread, migrate across borders, and are globally recognized as important members of natural communities, they provide opportunities for international collaborations to promote conservation and allow organizations to facilitate change globally, regionally, and locally.

Their charismatic presence and prominence within myth and culture worldwide make them an optimal catalyst for public engagement in the natural world.

In Southeast Asia, raptor richness is one of the highest but also has the highest number of threatened species.



(Photo by Garret Badiang)

Philippine raptors (60 spp) belong to five families: Accipitridae (26 spp), Pandionidae (1 sp), Falconidae (8 spp), Tytonidae (1 sp), and Strigidae (24 spp). There are 11 Near Threatened, 5 Vulnerable, 5 Endangered, and 1 Critically Endangered Philippine raptor species. Apart from the Philippine Eagle, there is little published information on raptors in the Philippines and many species remain unstudied.

Most of the raptors are also forest specialists. With deforestation that continues to occur at a rapid pace in the country, the situation is even more dire and research of utmost importance. But raptors are difficult to detect and study. They are elusive, widely dispersed, and inhabit areas difficult to access.

Some of the gaps in our study of raptors include the lack of population monitoring programs, and the bias towards a small fraction of raptors. Some of the ways we can address the gaps include implementing long-term and large-scale monitoring programs and focusing on raptors with small geographic ranges, forest-dependent species, and slow life histories.



CARMELA ESPAÑOLA

Associate Professor
University of the Philippines
Institute of Biology
PHILIPPINES

ABSTRACT: LECTURE

Northern tip of Luzon, Philippines: A nexus of the East Asian Australasian Flyway for Greyfaced Buzzards and other raptor species



Samarkand, 12 February 2024 – At the opening of the major UN wildlife conservation conference (CMS COP14), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) revealed in its first-ever State of the World's Migratory Species report that nearly half (44%) of these species are experiencing population declines.

And among the critical findings of the Northwestern University Biodiversity Research Unit under the CBCREEC and collaborative effort with the Raptor-watch Network Philippines was the identification of Northern Luzon as a vital link in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. This flyway serves as a crucial path for hundreds of thousands of avifauna from the Northern Hemisphere, including China, Siberia, Korea, and Japan, to reach their wintering grounds in the southern Philippines, Indonesia, and Borneo.

However, this bird corridor faces significant challenges due to fragmented landscapes, diminishing vegetation, and mega infrastructures that are threatening the natural flyways of these migratory species.

This research highlights the remarkable phenomenon of raptors migrating through Northern Luzon, with a focus on monitoring activities in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, and Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan.

Researchers diligently track the yearly migration of Grey-faced Buzzards, monitoring population trends, flock health, and the adult-to-young ratio within these groups. Additionally, the documentation of several raptor species has become an annual event among locals, leading to the creation of the Annual Spring Migration Birding Festival. This event has fostered a conservation partnership involving the local government of Pagudpud, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Tourism, and Northwestern University in Laoag City.

This research not only enhances our understanding of the current migration patterns of Grey-faced Buzzards but also provides a basis for developing policies and guidelines for conserving these species and their habitats, including their major stopovers and exit points in the Northern Luzon, Philippines.

Michael Agbayani Calaramo^{1,2}, Alex Tiongco², Theresa Cervero², and Lyka Jane Sahagon¹

1. Center for Biodiversity Conservation Restoration Ecology, & Environmental Concerns CBCREEC, Northwestern University Laoag City, Philippines.

2. Raptor Watch Network Philippines



MICHAEL CALARAMO

Director
Center for Biodiversity Conservation
, Restoration Ecology, and
Environmental Concerns
Northwestern University of Laoag
PHILIPPINES

POSTER ABSTRACTS

Results of an Island-wide Survey on the Overwintering Population of Grey-faced Buzzard on Amami Oshima Island

Yumiko Nagai, Amami Ornithologists' Club

Amami Oshima Island has a subtropical climate with an area of 712.35km² with the evergreen forests. The Amami Oshima Island is one of the wintering areas of the Grey-faced Buzzard. Even though the Grey-faced Buzzard is listed as an endangered species, no specific conservation measures have been taken for the Grey-faced Buzzard on Amami Oshima until 2021. In November 2021, in cooperation with nature conservation groups on and off the island, an island-wide population count survey of the wintering Grey-faced Buzzard on Amami Oshima was conducted. A total of 335 km of major roads, some farm roads, and forest roads were surveyed on foot with 45 researchers. Based on population count data in some areas of the island, it was estimated that about 2,000 Grey-faced Buzzard were wintering on Amami Oshima. Approximately 60% of the total area of Amami Oshima Island is occupied by evergreen forest. In order to understand the population on the entire island, it is essential to understand the population in the evergreen forests. In January 2023, fixed-point observation surveys were conducted at nine sites overlooking evergreen forests to estimate the population of Grey-faced Buzzard in evergreen forests. GIS analysis of the results showed that the population density in the evergreen forests was 0.87km², and the estimated population size was 363 birds. Population density were found out to be higher in open environments such as agricultural fields and along roads than in the evergreen forest areas. Amami Oshima Island was found out to be an important conservation site as a wintering area for the Grey-faced Buzzard. Using the results of these two surveys, GIS should be used to further analyze the data to arrive at a more realistic estimate of the population. In addition, suitable use environments should be organized and linked to conservation measures.

Survey of the breeding area of Gray-faced Buzzard in Kouzaki Town

Seiichi Dejima, The Nature Conservation Society of Japan

Blessed with fertile plains and abundant water, Kouzaki-Town has been a thriving rice-growing region since the Edo period. Taking advantage of these blessings, the fermented food industry, such as sake and miso, flourished. However, it has declined over time, and today, due to the declining birthrate and aging population nationwide, cultivation of fields is being abandoned and solar panels are being installed accordingly. Under these circumstances, two sake breweries that have supported the town's fermentation culture for over 300 years have taken a central role in promoting town development with the theme of fermentation, establishing a natural environment conservation area, and promoting agriculture. One of these, Terada Honke, rents abandoned Yatsuda rice fields and is working on restoring them from the perspective of raw material production and town development. Yatsuda, which has a traditional form of land use, is also an important area as a breeding ground for the Gray-faced Buzzard, which symbolizes the satoyama environment. Restoration of abandoned rice fields can be said to be an important activity for the conservation of Gray-faced Buzzard.

Breeding Season Life History of the Gray-faced Buzzard in Japan

Atsuki Azuma, Faculty of Agriculture, Iwate University

Gray-faced Buzzards (*Butastur indicus*) prefer to breed in habitats where rice fields and forests are mixed together. These habitats are called Satoyama in Japan. Gray-faced Buzzard is a summer bird that breeds in Satoyama and mountainous areas in the Kyushu to Tohoku regions of southwestern Japan. Gray-faced Buzzards migrate to their breeding areas from mid-late March to mid-April. The male guards his territory and waits for the female. When she arrives, he begins courtship, mating, and nest building. The female lays about three eggs in the nest in late April or early May. The eggs hatch in late May or early June, about a month after they are laid. Food brought to the nest includes a variety of small animals such as frogs, lizards, snakes, grasshoppers, praying mantis, large moth larvae, mice and moles, and occasionally small birds. Immediately upon arrival and during the early breeding season, frogs, lizards, snakes, and other amphibians and reptiles are mainly used around rice fields; by the end of June, insects increase rapidly and foraging habitat gradually shifts from rice fields to wooded areas. The distance flown at a time is short, and frequent movements of perches near nests shorten the distance flown at a time for foraging. Gray-faced Buzzards choose Satoyama with rice fields as breeding areas because it is easy to find frogs and other species around the rice fields in early spring. The first reason is that it is easy to find frogs and other species around rice paddies in early spring. Second, insects are abundant in the thickets in the summer. Finally, nests and hunting areas are very close to each other. From mid-May to mid-July, when the chicks need the most food, the Satoyama with its rice paddies provides ample food for the gray-faced buzzards.

Chicks leave the nest in late June or early July, about 35 days after hatching. Three weeks after leaving the nest, parents and chicks are gone from the nest site. They live in a different forest from the nest site until mid-September, when they begin their migration south. Individuals breeding in Japan are known to migrate south through the Japanese archipelago, passing through the Nansei Islands, wintering in Japan and migrating to northern Taiwan and Batan Island in the Philippines. This route is almost identical during the spring migration.

POSTER ABSTRACTS

Knowledge Gap on Bird Window Strikes in the Philippines

Bird Window Strike PH

Urbanization presents threats to birds as more commercial, industrial, and residential structures are being built. Bird-window collision (BWC) is recognized as a major contributor to bird mortality worldwide, second to feral cat predation. These strikes occur because of perception failure due to reflection and angle of flight which confuse birds. In the United States alone, an estimated 670 million birds die from window strikes annually; 29 million in Canada; and 7.65 million in South Korea. However, most research has only been conducted in temperate regions of the world, with tropical studies being limited to Brazil and Singapore as of writing. This raises a huge knowledge gap on the status of BWCs in the Philippines, which is both a biodiversity hotspot and part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Bird Window Strike PH, a citizen science project, has been collating BWCs around the country to provide a better local understanding of the issue. With nearly 300 collisions recorded, the team has observed the majority of reports coming from the Columbidae (34%), Alcedinidae (14%), Megalaimidae (12%), and Pittidae (8%) families. Of these reports, the team has also documented a 60% mortality rate with half of deaths coming from the Columbidae family. Most species recorded, in terms of range, were considered Resident (53%) and Endemic (21%). Other categories included birds which are Near Endemic (9%), Migrant (6%), Migrant with some resident populations (4%), and Introduced (3%). Reports have included a number of species classified as threatened based on IUCN: Japanese Night Heron (*Gorsachius goisagi*), Philippine Eagle-Owl (*Bubo philippensis*), Flame-breasted Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus marchei*), and DENR: Indigo-banded Kingfisher (*Ceyx cyanopectus*), Philippine Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus philippensis*).

The outcomes of this study are valuable for effectively addressing conservation concerns for threatened birds, guiding policies to create bird-friendly infrastructures, and promoting public contribution to scientific literature.

Impact of Photovoltaic Power Station on Grey-faced Buzzard Breeding

Toshiaki Sasama, The Wild Bird Society of Mie, Japan

In our poster, we report the effect of a photovoltaic power station newly constructed in a breeding area of Grey-faced Buzzard in Mie, Central Japan. Prior to construction, 20 hectares of area around nesting trees were well-preserved. We have a comparison of nesting conditions before, during, and after construction. It also reports about changes in the environment and the fledgling status of chicks. Finally, the poster also posits regarding future challenges.

The Project for the Conservation of Endangered Raptors in the Philippines

Satomi Matsunaga, Japanese Society for Preservation of Birds

The Japanese society for preservation of birds (JSPB) is supporting the project for conservation of raptors which are migratory birds between the Philippines and Japan. JSPB needs to cooperate internationally to conserve migratory birds because it is impossible to conserve them migrating over national borders by only one country. That's why JSPB is carrying out the activities with the NGO and the government of the Philippines. Nobody knows how many and where the Grey-faced Buzzard (GFB) and the Chinese Sparrow Hawk (CSH) are migrating or wintering before JSPB started activities. But JSPB found out they are threatened by human disturbance such as development activities or poaching. JSPB started to count migratory raptors to find out recent population. In addition, JSPB is enlarging activities to stop poaching with the Raptorwatch Network Philippines (RNP). Also JSPB and RNP found out that over 100,000 CSH are passing through the Philippines by their investigation. But the problem that the CSH cannot catch enough diet in the coconut trees of the southern Mindanao inland came from that natural trees were cut and were developed. The CSH are catching the diet in the natural forests. So JSPB started to support reforestation of native trees at the Tibanban and Mt. Taltak.

Recently JSPB is doing activities to stop poaching of the GFB in Nueva Vizcaya. In this activity, JSPB are making a movie, coloring books, booklets and pin-badges to raise awareness that the GFB and other wildlife are important for local people's life. In addition, JSPB is donating many old binoculars which are contributed from Japanese people. JSPB hopes that awareness of conservation of nature expands to many people in the Philippines by using the binoculars.

Summit Declaration

The Grey-faced Buzzard, or Sawi in the lingua franca of the Philippine North, needs more than just one town, more than just one country, for it to gracefully complete its life cycle.

The international and interlocal cooperation required in saving vulnerable, endangered, and critically-endangered migratory raptors have already been well-established in the past iterations of this summit, which was originally conceptualized for the Grey-faced Buzzard and its important role across the Asia Pacific's human-altered ecosystems.

Now that our network of interested and concerned territories is expanding, the urgency for focus has become more evident. We need to march towards a singular path, albeit of seemingly daunting, multi-step conservation efforts.

With this widening network comes the need for specificity in action, so we can push forward as one unit. The synchronization of each push – replicated in several different sites – is crucial for us to truly make a dent in the status quo.

Hence, for this year's summit, we deem it most urgent to declare that this growing network must push forward to:

- **S**ustain information, education, and communication movements every year, and institutionalize Wildlife Studies in local universities and colleges, in conjunction to Agriculture Studies
- **A**dvocate for science-based legislation on the local level, complementing our countries' national laws on wildlife protection, with special focus on the Grey-faced Buzzard and vulnerable or endangered Migratory Raptors and their habitat
- **W**eigh the impact of local development plans and investment plans and recalibrate these to ensure the scientific placement of clean energy sources (solar panels, windmills, etc.) and commercial or residential land use, in such a way that will not jeopardize habitats of the Grey-faced Buzzard and other Migratory Raptors and Birds
- **I**nnovate programs and protocols for ecotourism, based on sincere deference for wild-life movement within their habitats, as well as on respect for local culture.

Done this 26th day of March 2024, on the occasion of the 4th International Summit on Grey-faced Buzzard and Migratory Raptors, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, Philippines.



Acknowledgements

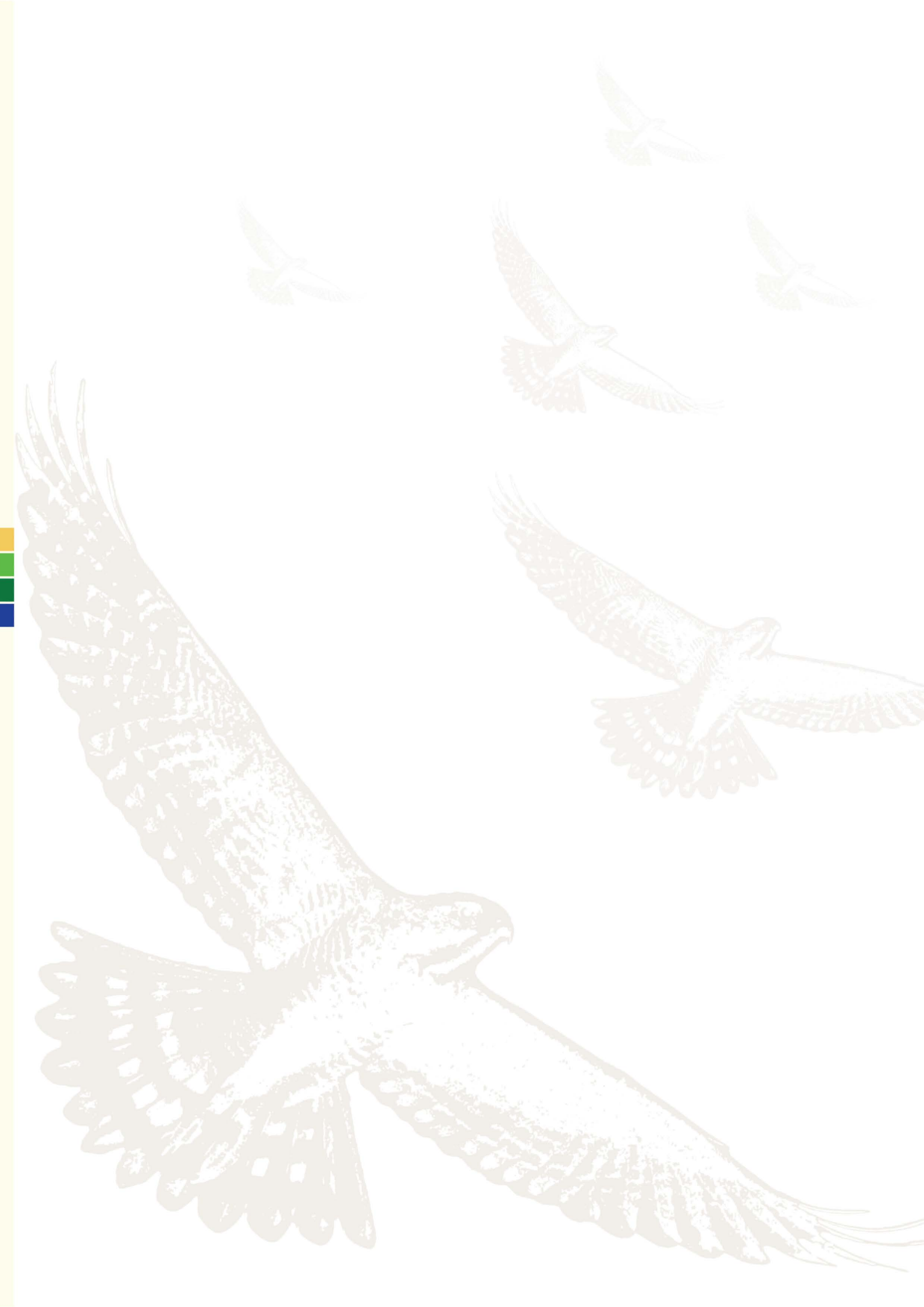


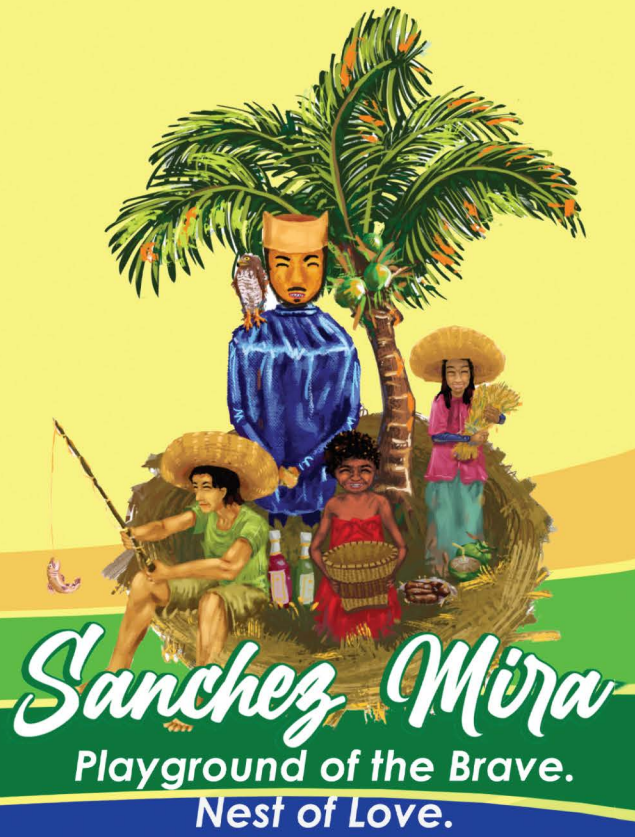
The Local Government of Sanchez Mira, Cagayan
 The Department of Tourism - Central Office (Manila)
 The Department of Tourism - Regional Office 2
 The Department of Trade and Industry - Regional Office 2
 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Regional Office 2
 The Provincial Government of Cagayan
 Office of the Governor of Cagayan - Manuel Mamba, Sr.
 Cagayan Tourism Office
 Cagayan State University
 Raptorwatch Network Philippines
 Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network

Rodger Yu
 Office of the Senator Mark Villar
 Dennis and Lyn Jakoboski
 The Local Government of Lal-lo, Cagayan
 The Department of Tourism - Region 1 Office
 Department of Education - Sanchez Mira District
 CENRO Sanchez Mira



Photo by George Lacson, PH





23 - 25 March 2024
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan