

## サシバの秋の渡りと集団渡来地の住民とのかかわり

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The Relationship between Autumnal Migration of the Gray-Faced Buzzard-Eagle  
and the Native People of the Concentration Migratory Points.

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サシバの集団渡来地で知られるバタン諸島（フィリピン）、ガランビ岬（台湾）、宮古諸島、徳之島、佐多岬（鹿児島県）、伊良湖岬（愛知県）で地域住民とサシバとの関わりを調べた。伊良湖岬、佐多岬、徳之島ではさほど関わりはみられないが、宮古諸島、ガランビ岬、バタン諸島では強い関わりがみられた。

なお、この報告書は1985年に発表した「The Life Cycle of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle」（人材育成財団、研究報告書第1号、1985）を加筆修正したものである。

First of all, the author picked out several concentration migratory points of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle widely known to the native people. He visited the places and examined them in detail. The relationship between the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle and the native people of the concentration places was examined by personal communication with the native people of Taiwan, the Batan Islands of the Philippines, the Miyako Islands, Tokunoshima Island, the area of Cape Sata of Kagoshima prefecture, and Cape Irako of Aichi prefecture.

The native people of the area of Cape Irako and Cape Sata have not poached by their own catching methods on a large scale the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle which migrates to

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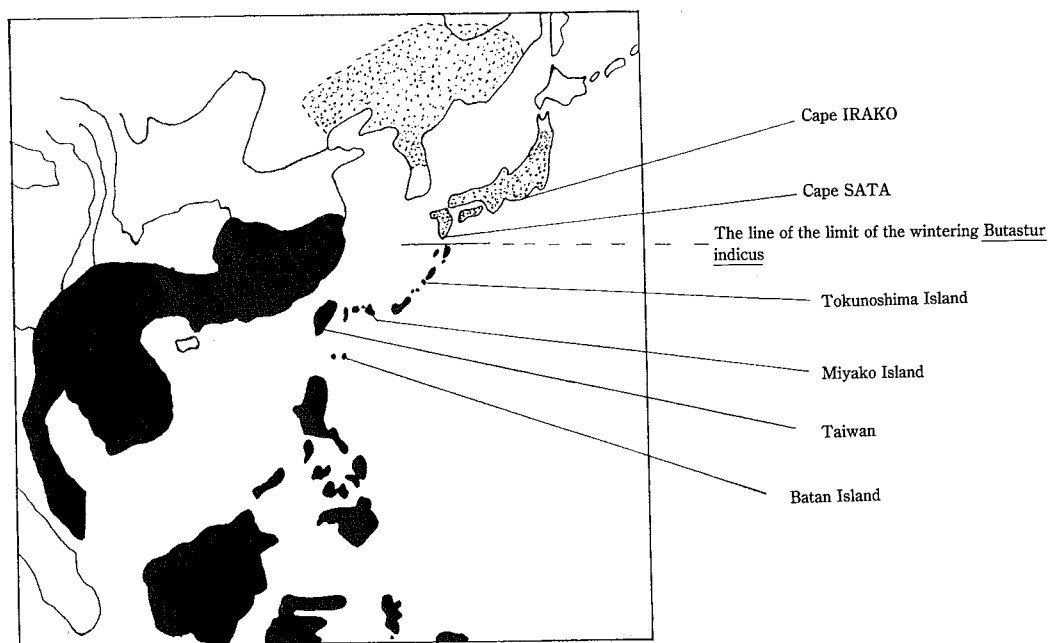
※ 本研究の一部は1993年度 FGF の助成金によるものである。

these areas. Hence, they have not so much had a strong relation-ship.

But the native people of the Miyako Islands, Tokunoshima Island, Taiwan, and the Batan Islands of the Philippines have poached by their own catching methods that they conceived during their long history with the birds. In other words, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle has become a part of their lives. As shown below, the relationship between the birds and the native people of the Miyako Islands, Tokunoshima Island, Taiwan and the Batan Islands and their catching methods are explained.

Cape Irako was examined in october 1978 and 1993, Cape Sata in october 1979 and 1993, Tokunoshima island in october 1987, the Miyako Islands in every october from 1973 to 1991, Cape Oluanpi of Taiwan in october 1982 and Batan Islands in october 1984 respectively.

On this paper, the author added new information and some photos to the paper on the life cycle of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle reported already in 1985 and modified.



Breeding and Non-Breeding Distribution of  
*Butastur indicus* and Concentrating Places  
During Migration (Wild Bird Society of Japan  
1982. Modified).

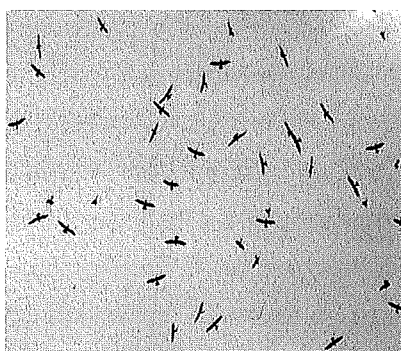
 BREEDING  NON-BREEDING

## 1 The Miyako Islands

All of the Miyako Islands, widely known as the roosting place of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle from olden times, have been very excited during the autumnal migratory season. The Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle is a protected bird today. So only very few people have poached it. But the history of the poaching of the birds is very long. Anyway, in olden times if the schools had athletic meetings during the autumnal migratory season, the native people protested to the schools because of not catching the birds due to the sound of bells and drums and voices. So, we can imagine how all of the people of the Islands had been excited during the migratory season.



Resting Butastur indicus



Flock of Butastur indicus

The native people of the Miyako Islands have designed their own very interesting catching method during the long history which they have concerned themselves with the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle. It is a catching house called Tsugya (means a catching house). First, they make a catching house to hold two men at slightly above the middle of a tree of above 15 meters height by using the branches of pine trees, vines and pampas grass. Of course they selected the most proper tree for the roosting of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle. They know which tree is the best through their long experiences. They also set three perches at 1.5 meters above the catching house and put a captured decoy bird on the perch. The decoy bird is an adult male. The native people are calling it Akamii (means red eyes in their dialect) in relation to the color of the iris. They don't use any other birds except this male adult as their decoy bird. The decoy bird is put on the bottom of the perch. The decoy bird is tied fast from under the wings through the back with a string. This string reaches into the catching house under the perches. At the Miyako

Islands, we can see the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle from around 11:30 o'clock in the morning. The peak is from 16:00 to 18:00 pm.



Decoy Bird



Catching House (Tyugya)

When a large flocks of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle passes over the Tsugya (catching house), the man in the catching house pulls the string of the decoy bird and makes it flap. The Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles, flying over the catching house recognize it and are tempted by it and fly down on the perch near the decoy bird one after another. When the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle land on the perch, the man in the catching house catches it by using a bamoo pole which its tip with a circular string (put the circular string on its neck and pull down).

The figures of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle which flies down aiming at the decoy bird like a bullet from an altitude of 700~800 meters are very splendid. When they fly down like a bullet, they fold their wings into a triangular form. The sound of cutting the air with their wings reaches as far as the catching house. We can also hear the sound of the violent breath of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle which lands on the perch near the decoy bird. They will consume a lot of energy during their flying. But then, we are astonished with their sharp eyesight which recognizes the decoy bird from an altitude of about 1,000 meters.

But why must the decoy bird be special adult male type which the native people call Akamii (red eyes)? According to the native people, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle that comes flying to the Miyako Islands at the begining of the migratory season is a juvenile bird. An adult bird, male type (red eyes) is very few. So it is said that if someone caught Akamii (red eyes, male type), he was very glad because he might have a chance to catch many other birds by using it as a decoy bird during the season. It is said that the

most beautiful decoy bird was sold for \$ 50. This means that if somebody buys it at such a high price, he will be able to recover his costs by using it.

Judging from the story of the native people who have had a deep relation with the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle as mentioned, I presume that the native people will become to know that the decoy bird (an male adult, red eyes) will have the position of being a leader during migration. It also seems similar to the above-mentioned matter, that the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles which are caught at the catching house by using a decoy bird, are all juvenile birds. The author wants to take some time to survey this observation.

Then, how many Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles were caught by the native people during one season? A certain old man told me that he had caught about 100~150 birds during one season and his friend caught 138 birds during one day. It is said that about 1,500~2,000 catching houses (Tsugya) were made all over the Miyako Islands before World War II. They say that about 60 birds on an average were caught by one catching house (Tsugya) during each season. So, it is considered that about 100,000 birds were sacrificed all over the Miyako Islands during every migratory season. Before World War II, the breeding places of mainland Japan had an ideal environment to breed. Therefore, a great number of Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles would have increased satisfactorily.

At the peak of the migration, a lot of Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles came flying to the Miyako Islands. Some of them could not find a tree to perch on and flew down into the sweet potato fields. The women working in the fields sat with their heads covered with sweet potato vines. When a bird perched on their sweet potato vines, they caught it quickly with their bare hands. They occasionally caught 4~5 birds. So, in these days, it can be imagined how much greater the number of Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles were that came flying to the Miyako Islands.

The author considers that the story about how so many Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle came flying together to the Miyako Islands at the same time that the sky became black, is true.

At 1609, the Miyako Islands were controlled under Satsuma and the native people were required to pay a very severe tax. People worked very hard in order to pay the tax. The tax is called Nintoh-jei. People boiled the leaves and vines of sweetpotatoes with sea water to keep off hunger. For 266 years Nintoh-jei continued, and people could not eat meat or drink alcohol. So the people who were suffering from unbalanced nutrition had to find a source of nourishment. Fortunately, the gods sent to the Miyako Islands a

great number of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles for this supply of nourishment. The unbalanced nutrition of the people was mitigated by the bird's appearance. Nobody knows the time when people began to eat the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles. But possibly, people might have begun to eat them during the days of Nintoh-jei. Anyway, in those days, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles were a very important food for the native people and the pleasure of hunting restored their fatigue. So when we talk about the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles with an old man who caught a lot of birds in his youth, the conversation becomes lively and we lose all sense of time.

In olden times, in the days when the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle was not caught, people sat in a circle and had a beauty contest with the birds. A person who caught a very beautiful male bird to use as a decoy bird, or who had made a catching house (Tsugya) at the best place to catch the birds, was very envied by everybody. They were proud of the large numbers of birds which they had caught and talked with each other about the best way to cook them. When people cooked them, they generally made a stew with them or put them into boiled water and plucked the feathers and fried them with their own fat. The stew was called "Taka Jyushi" in miyakoan dialect. "Taka Jyushi" means a stew made of Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle. Children made rings with the sharp claws of the birds and the feathers were used as a broom.

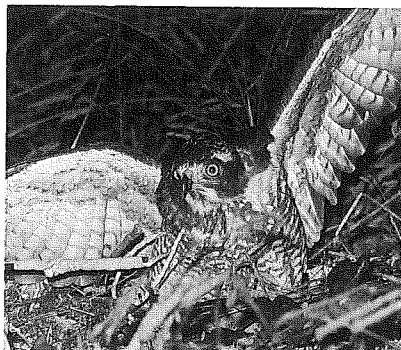
The migratory season of the birds have brought to all of the native people a chance for good communication. They gathered together and talked with each other about various stories concerning the birds, every night after catching them. In those days, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle was given to all of the children as their living toys. Children competed for the flying distance of the birds. They tied a string which was attached to a wooden clog around both legs and then they released the birds, carrying the wooden clog, for the race. The person who caught a lot of birds sold them at a market. The juvenile bird cost 10 to 15 cents (US dollars). The adult one cost 20 to 25 cents. They were also carried to the market in mainland okinawa. Some people fed the birds in a storehouse and when a guest visited, they cooked them and offered them to him. So those days were the worst period for the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles who flew to the Miyako Islands.

The hills and trees near villages which had ideal conditions to catch the birds, were bidden. After the bidding, people informed each other about ownership by tying pampas grass around the tree during the migratory season. The date of the bid was fixed. If anyone had marked a tree belonging to a village with pampas grass before the bid day, it

was not permitted by the people. The money from the bid was used at a meeting on respect-for-the-aged holiday, for athletic meetings, New Year's Day or the festivals of the village.



Kids and the Bird  
(Photo by Dr. George H kerr)



Poached Butastur indicus

Both Irabu and Shimoji island are the places where the greatest number of the bird sused to come flying among the Miyako Islands. These islands have a very interestingl ocal song concerning the Gray-faced Buzard-eagle as follows.

Kugatsu-n Mai-fu Taka-gama Du-n-ma Su-tsu-a Shi-i-du Tubi-mai-fu  
(Every September of the lunar calendar, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle recognizes the season and comes flying to our islands.)

Kugatsu-n Mai-fu Taka-gama Du-n-ma Suma-nu-ban Mura-nu-ban Chi-du  
Nukui-ya-munu Du-ta-mai Suma-nu-ban Chi-du Nu-ku-ra-ji-ti  
(The Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle which comes flying to our islands in September of the lunar calendar stays to protect islands. So let's also do our best to protect our islands.)

Sutsu-nu Tui-gama Du-n-ma Mu-du-chi Mi-rai-su-ga  
Du-nu Fu-fa N-miya Nou-chiga Mi-ra-in-ga  
(At every migratory season, we can see the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles. But my child who died doesn't appear forever.)

From this local song, we can imagine that the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle was a part

of the life of the native people and how the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle deeply occupied their hearts.

The children in Hirara City of Miyako Island sang loudly when the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles appeared over the Miyako Islands.

Taka Do-oh-i Den-go U-wa-ga Ya-ya N-za-ga Tarama-nu Pai-nu-ka-ta

U-pu Gi-su-ki Nu Su-ta N-du Ya-ya Tsu-fu-i Su-sa Tsu-fu-i

Bi-yu-i Taka Nui Nui

(Hey, Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle, Where is your house?

My house is in the big tree at the north, far from Tarama island.)

In addition, we have the following legend at Nikadori area, Hirara City. The children from this area grew up hearing it.

In olden times, when the Father of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle was flying over the Miyako Islands, his wing was hurt and he took rest in the area of Nikadori Creek. He died from the wounds on a chilly night when the autumn wind was blowing.. So his fellows visited the Miyako Islands to worship his spirit every fall.

We also have another interesting story at Shimosaki area, Hirara City.

In olden times, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle and frogs were close freinds. One day, they promised to run an informal race about a trifle from the western part of Miyako Island to the eastern part. They bet a bottle of wine and a fish on the race. If the frog competes honestly with the bird, he will lose. So he assembled all of he frogs in Miyako Islands and demanded them to cooperate with him. The frog arranged his friends at regular intervals from the starting point to the goal and competed with the bird. Finally, the bird lost the race due to the frog's wits. The frog demanded the wine and a fish from the bird. But he had no money to buy wine. So the bird asked the frog to wait for three months. But the bird could'nt pay the money to buy wine for the frog after three months had passed. Soon, the autumn was over and the bird returned to his native place. So they say that all of the frogs on Miyako Island croaked and demanded their prize.

In the Miyako islands, when the migratory season has come, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle certainly appears in the daily conversation of people, in their daily life, in the local songs and in the legends. There is an unparalleled and a unique culture of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle in the Miyako Islands.



## 2 Tokunoshima Island

Tokunoshima Island is located about 420 kilometers south of Cape Sata. Since Tokunoshima Island was expected to be a concentration locality for migratory hawks, it was examined twice in 1987 (october 10-13 and october 18-21). The first step was to obtain information concerning the migration of Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle from the native people of Tokunoshima Island. This proved very difficult. However, enough information was obtained from some hunters to determine some of the concentration migratory points.

The point that the birds funnel through on their entrance and exit is at Isencho, Tokunoshima Island. Here, the birds fly to the island from the south-west at 1700 and 1800 hours in the evening and leave around 0600 hours the next morning. This situation is very similar to the Miyako Islands. The points where many Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles come to the island are at Itokina, Agon, Yaezoh, and Bane in Tokunoshima Island. At the basin of Yae-zoh, there is a low hill called Ta-i-ri-du by the native people. Historically, it is said that this was where many Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles came into the island. In fact, the word "Ta-i-ri-du" means the hill to shoot the hawks. Now more than half of the hill has been destroyed and it has been turned into a sugarcane field. It is, however, still said that some hawks come through this area every year.

In olden times, it is said that people poached the birds by using a gun or a birdlime.



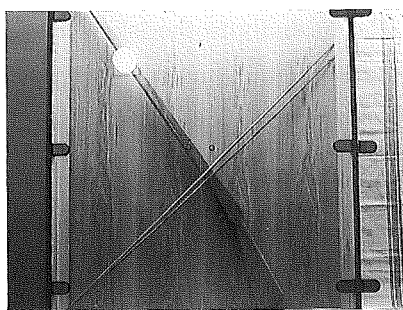
A low hill Called Ta-i-ri-du by the native people

## 3 Taiwan

The people of the Tainan area of Taiwan, widely known as a resting place of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle, also gets as excited as the people of the Miyako Islands during the migratory season. They sometimes poached the bird by using a gun. But most of them use a gun-bow. A gun-bow means a gun that uses an arrow instead of a bullet.

During the migratory season, every day the children or the young men climb on the roof from about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and watch the birds. They have ascertained at which part of a mountain the birds take their rest, and after sun-set, they poach the birds by using a gun-bow and a flash light.

They say that also in this area, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle remains the chief topic of the conversation among the people during the migratory season. But at the present time, the poaching of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle also has been prohibited by the efforts of the people in the wild bird society of Taiwan. The gun-bow that had been used in ancient times, has been displayed at the National Museum in Kenting Park in Taiwan.



Gun-Bow

#### 4 The Batan Islands of the Philippines

The Batan Islands consist of Batan Island and Sabatan Island. Both islands are well known to the native people as the concentrating place of the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagles. But the people from other island don't know about this. The Batan islands are located 200 kilometers north of the northern part of Lozon island and 400 kilometers north of Manila. It takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes from Manila to Batan Island using a 48-seat airplane. There are very few trees on the islands because of elimination for fuel. There is no sign of reforestation. On these islands, the main kind of trees are coconut trees. According to the native people, trees don't grow easily because of the typhoons.

The native people call the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle "Kuyab" and have had a deep relationship with the birds similar to the Miyako islands. "Kuyab" means the birds which comes flying during the daytime. In every place on these islands, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle appears during the afternoon until evening. So the word "Kuyab", is a very nice dialect word that describes well the habits of the bird. In Batan, Ivana area is the only concentrating place. In this island, the Gray-faced Buzzard-eagle has been adopted into

a supplementary reader of an elementary school. The contents are as follows;



Catching House of the Batan Islands

October is here and once again, the science teachers of the Ivana Elementary School motivate their pupils as they discuss the long awaited coming of the "Kuyab" birds similar to the Philippine eagle.

With various illustrations, the science teachers explain to the pupils that this species of birds come somewhere from China, and because of the Siberian winter, they are forced to migrate to warmer regions. These birds follow a certain direction. Ivana and Sabtang (an island about three nautical miles from Ivana) happen to be within their course of direction.

When the "Kuyabs" do finally come, which is usually in the middle of October, children excitedly welcome their coming with shouts of joy.

The birds spend the night resting on any tree around. Since there are thousands of them, people can't help but catch some of birds for pets or even for food. Some enterprising young men would prepare artificial roosts for the "Kuyab". They position four posts on the ground and put twigs and leaves on top. These are artificial trees, usually with ladders for reaching the top. On top is a cozy space where the tired "Kuyabs" can rest. The men hide just underneath and when the "Kuyab" alights on the makeshift roost or "Pongkot", the men catch them with bare hands. Usually this is done under the cover of darkness.

The "Kuyabs" navigate long distances over seas and land, flying day and night. They are guided in their long journey by the stars and the earth's magnetic impulses. They alight in the Batan Islands for an overnight rest and resume their long journey to the South at the light of dawn. They come back after the winter season, in February and March. This time they fly over the Batanes Isles.

It is said that some of these birds are caught in Cagayan and Isabela. Some birds car-

ry bands sometimes with messages.

Locally known as "Kuyabs" these birds belong to the raptorial falcon family specifically called Gray Buzzards. They have weak short toes with strong wings.

The "Kuyabs" never fail to come on October 13. On or before this date they start alighting on the treetops at Sabtang and Ivana. The Ivana folks believe that they come around this date because they are the Virgin Mary's birds. October is the Lady's month and October 13th is her Feast Day in most Ivatan Villages.

We can imagine from the supplementary reader how the native people have deeply concerned themselves in the birds. The native people also have poached them by making a catching house like the "Tsugya (catching house)" of the Miyako Islands.

But the catching house of this island and of the Miyako Islands are a little different. The native people have not used living trees to make the catching house because of a lack of growing trees. Instead, they set up a tree trunk on the slope of the mountain and make the catching house by putting a man inside the tree trunk. Sometimes they have set up four tree trunks and made a bigger catching house to hold two men by using these trunks. After making a catching house, they camouflage it like a big tree by using many green leaves. When they want to catch the birds, they go into the catching house before the birds appear and wait for them. The birds come flying around four o'clock p.m. until evening. The birds which fly to this island, perch on the catching house which is camouflaged like a big tree to rest from their fatigue. The man hiding inside the catching house quickly catches the legs of the birds with his bare hands. When the bird perches on the tree, first he looks down and then looks around as his habit. So the man hiding inside the catching house must catch it before he looks down into the house. They say that the timing to catch a bird is very difficult. It is also said that in this island, more than 100 catching houses have been made during the season and someone caught 13 birds in one day. It is presumed that more than 10,000 birds have been poached on this island too.

It is very interesting to compare the catching method of the Miyako Islands and of the Batan Islands.

- (1) In the Batan Islands, the method presumed to be the oldest one, still remains. This method is presumed to be the same one as the first method of the Miyako Islands.

- (2) In the Miyako Islands the decoy bird has been used, but in the Batan Islands it isn't.
- (3) In these days native people from both places have poached the birds by using a flashlight and a bamboo pole with a hook.
- (4) During the migratory season in the Miyako Islands, the native people have not used a gun, but in the Batan Islands sometimes a gun has been used.

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