

**Minutes of the 3rd Nature Conservation Review Committee Meeting Focusing on Birds of Prey
and Forest Concerning New Test Course Development by Honda Motor**

1	Date and Time
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17:00 ~ 19:30 June 21, 2007 Thursday

2	Venue
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Tochigi Prefecture General Culture Center Meeting room No.2

3	Attendees
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5 committee members:

Chair, Tatsuhiro Ohkubo—— Professor of Faculty of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University

Member, Koichi Endo—— Assistant District Leader of Tochigi Branch of the Wild Bird
Society of Japan

Member, Kazumi Suemoto—— Researcher, Natural History Research

Member, Mitsutake Hayashi—— Chief Researcher, Tochigi Prefectural Museum

Member, Takashi Matsuda —— Vice President, Nature Conservation Group of Ujiie

18 organizing members

4	Agenda
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1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting

2 Report on the results of site inspections to date

3 Wide area inspection

4 Discussion on the draft Environment Conservation Plan (waterside, forests, and green space for the new R&D Center)

5 Forward Plan (schedule and other items)

6 Other

(1) Website

(2) Schedule for the next review meeting

Agenda

1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting

The organizer reported on the minutes of the 2nd meeting and the results of the wide area inspection. No comments were made by members.

2 Report on the results of site inspections to date

The organizer explained the results of inspections to date on the planned sites of the new R&D Center and the new test course. Members exchanged views as follows:

- How was it confirmed that buzzard-eagles, inhabiting a location outside the planned site of the new R&D Center, failed to breed this year?
 - The organizer stated that frequent entry to the forest surrounding the nest trees made the birds give an alarm cry and that the inspection confirmed that they had made nests but could not confirm any incubation of eggs.
- More detailed information should be provided about the importance of breeding of raptorial birds of prey (for example: classifying trajectories by month, distinguishing the nests that were vacated in the later period from other nests.)
 - The organizer acknowledged the request.
- How was the presence of skunk cabbage confirmed?
 - They formed a relatively dense community near the spring water.

3 Wide area inspection

The organizer reported on the wide area inspection and related matters such as target zone selection, inspection methods, and inspection results. Members exchanged views as follows:

- The presence of goshawk nests was confirmed in the wider area, but the presence of their baby birds was not confirmed in the F and H zones. It is unthinkable that they left nests less than 30 days after starting incubation. Normally their feathers fall around nests as they grow up. Also, soon after they leave the nest, they often stay around their nesting trees. Did you see any of these signs?
 - The organizer stated that no signs like these were confirmed in either the F or H zones.

- Did you see any sign of feeding failure? Was there any man-induced intrusion like climbing of trees?
 - The organizer stated that there was nothing to suggest the cause for the absence of baby birds, and that no signs were found suggesting someone had climbed the trees.
- In the K zone, were no buzzard-eagle nests found even though they were seen flying?
 - The organizer stated that the nests were not found.
- The nests were not found, but the presence of settling pairs, if any, has to be taken into account. Any zone of pair settling should be recorded, just like nests are recorded. Are there any other zones where pair flying was witnessed?
 - The organizer stated that they will be recorded and that birds other than nesting birds were not found in other zones.

4 Discussion on the draft Environmental Conservation Plan (waterside, forests, and green space for the new R&D Center)

The organizer outlined the environmental conservation plan, the waterside development plan, the forest development plan, and the green space plan. The committee discussed as follows:

- It was suggested that conservation efforts in the planned area should be directed primarily towards the existing flora and fauna and that preservation targets should be made specific.
 - The organizer stated that they would investigate gathering more details of the species to be preserved.
- Preservation of fireflies in the planned area needs some accompanying story. For preserving fireflies, only the local species must be used and any hatched ones should not be used. Once an environment sustaining fireflies including *Semisulcospira libertina* has been set up, they would spontaneously move in from surrounding areas.
 - The organizer acknowledged the request.
- Many species are involved (e.g. alder-like trees easily take root and quillwort-like ones are fit for disturbed environment), which makes it difficult to achieve the planned vision.

The organizer stated that they would take these factors into consideration and reflect it in the detailed planning.
- When planting mature trees, local species should be used without using insecticides or

herbicides.

→ The organizer acknowledged the request.

5 Forward Plan (schedule and others)

The organizer explained how the review will proceed. Members commented as follows:

- Is more time needed for study before concluding the nature conservation pact?
 - The organizer stated that they would think about the need for further study on a case-by-case basis.

6 Other

(1) Website

The organizer reported that they started an English version of website. Members requested that website be improved so that it links directly to the English version of the Honda Motor Co., Ltd. website.