



# MINDORO

## Biodiversity

January-March 2019

The official newsletter of Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

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## The Chairman's Report 2018

*A decade of conserving Mindoro's biodiversity*

The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. was registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the Philippines on March 19, 2008. The late William L. R. Oliver, a founding trustee of the foundation had a clear vision of the long term conservation and making a difference for Mindoro. In the early years, MBCFI started with comprehensive baseline studies led by Dr. Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez together with Dr. Leticia E. Afuang and Andres T. Dans under its RESEARCH program, which became our core expertise. We have to date conducted 40 scientific researches, published 12 technical reports, recorded 54 new and significant species and discovered one new species.

From one person in 2008, the organization grew to 21 personnel in 2018. After just a few years, the MISSION Program has provided the Mangyan communities and other relevant stakeholders with alternative socio-economic opportunities to thrive in this fast-changing world. We consider these communities as key enablers on biodiversity conservation in areas where the MBCFI operates. MBCFI has capacitated more than 1,000 local community members; organized and

registered 13 People's Organizations (PO) composed of Mangyans; facilitated the deputation of 69 Wildlife Enforcement Officers, and provided 15 alternative sources of income for all of these groups. Under the same program and supported with conservation agreements, MBCFI together with its partner POs have established 163 hectares of restoration and woodlot areas where more than 180,000 native seedlings and wildlings were planted.

The foundation, through its Conservation Awareness Raising and Education (CARE) Program, has always been at the forefront in advocating the biodiversity and cultural significance of Mindoro. This initiative is aimed to gain broader and collaborative support for biodiversity conservation and protection from the general public. The CARE Program has similarly trained 420 teachers in Mindoro for the integration of biodiversity in their daily lesson plans. We continue to empower the Mindoreños through increased awareness and care.

The implementation of these programs entails numerous layers and lengthy processes, which we have over the years mastered. It is also the reason why we adopted partnerships as one of our core strategies. We entered into memoranda of agreement with the DENR, Department of Education, Local Government Units, and IP communities in the implementation of our programs. MBCFI has accreditation from these agencies and the Philippine Council for NGO Certification, thereby ensuring the legitimacy of our advocacies and efforts.

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### OUR VISION

*Sustained conservation of Mindoro's natural treasures for future generations.*

### OUR MISSION

*To lead scientific research and catalyze collaborative and participative conservation efforts in key biodiversity areas of Mindoro resulting in empowerment of Mindoreños through increased awareness and care.*

The accreditation paved the way for our partners to recognize us and to become a part of the Provincial and Regional Development Councils and Protected Area Management Board of four protected areas of Mindoro, and most importantly our membership to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Over the past 10 years, MBCFI is known by its partners for delivering what has been committed. We provided advisory and technical assistance to the provincial government, LGUs, DENR and protected areas of Mindoro on aspects related to protected area management, forest and wildlife management and integration of biodiversity conservation and corresponding budget allocation to Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Provincial Development Plans, and other local development Plans.

It was a very productive decade for MBCFI, and we all look forward to more decades of steadfast involvement and stronger partnership in sustaining all conservation efforts of Mindoro's natural treasures for future generations.

### The height of implementing core programs in 2018

Compared to the previous years, 2018 has been more challenging but was a productive year for MBCFI. The total fund, from the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners for this fiscal year, was allocated mainly to our three core programs MISSION, RESEARCH, CARE. We kept operation and administrative costs well below the mandated limit.



Some of the highlights in 2018

### RESEARCH

1) Provided technical assistance in the Naujan Lake National Park Management Planning in partnership with the DENR, PAMB, LGUs, Provincial Government and other stakeholders. This initiative resulted in the preparation and development of the following documents.

- Initial Protected Area Plan
- Protected Area Suitability Assessment
- Draft Presidential Proclamation
- Draft Bill to the Congress
- Proceedings and endorsements for the proclamation

2) Participated in Tamaraw Expedition in partnership with the Tamaraw Conservation Program of the DENR resulting to Tamaraw's sighting within the boundary of Oriental Mindoro. The last published record of tamaraw sighting in Oriental Mindoro was in Catuiran River in 1887, or 131 years ago.



Tamaraw Expedition in Mt. Guimparay

3) Participated in the Annual Tamaraw, which counted a total number of 523 individual Tamaraws found in its core habitat in Occidental Mindoro.

4) Lead the Asian Waterbird Census

a) Naujan Lake National Park - the bird count on January 18, showed 5,523 birds which were fewer than the 6,907 counted in 2017, but two new species - garganeys and Eurasian wigeons, were spotted among the ducks visiting the lake during migration season.

b) Apo Reef Natural Park - a rare sighting of a Christmas frigatebird, a globally threatened species, in June while conducting a study at the Apo Reef Natural Park.

5) Philippine Teak trees – almost 2,000 trees have been mapped and tagged.



Asian Waterbird Census at Naujan Lake National Park

### MISSION

*Mt. Halcon*

- 21.63 hectares restoration areas established
- 20.10 hectares woodlot areas established
- Eight hectares of woodlot and restoration areas established in the previous year maintained
- 57,000 native trees seedlings propagated
- Six native vermicomposting beds established
- Two capacity building activities initiated
- Four alternative livelihood programs provided

*Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary*

- 17.28 hectares restoration areas established
- 11.82 hectares woodlot areas established
- 10 hectares of woodlot and restoration areas established in the previous year maintained
- 38,000 native trees seedlings propagated
- 10 native vermicomposting beds established
- Three capacity building activities initiated
- Three alternative livelihood programs provided

*Ilin and Ambulong Islands*

- 4.72 hectares woodlot areas established
- Five hectares of woodlot and restoration areas established in the previous year maintained
- 11,600 native trees seedlings propagated
- Two capacity building activities initiated
- One alternative livelihood program provided
- Two POs accredited by the LGU of San Jose



Woodlot maintenance

*Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park*

- 21.05 hectares restoration areas established
- 16.07 hectares woodlot areas established
- Nine hectares of woodlot and restoration areas established in the previous year maintained
- 75,100 native trees seedlings propagated
- One capacity building activity initiated
- Five alternative livelihood programs provided
- One PO accredited by the Provincial Government



## CARE

- 1) 10th Anniversary celebration
- 2) Treasured Island - A Coffee table book published and launched
- 3) Mindoro Treasures - An Environmental Sourced book published and launched
- 4) 5,052 pieces of IEC materials produced
- 5) Two PAMB resolutions passed in promoting flagship species
- 6) Four SEED workshops conducted
- 7) Numerous environmental events, e-campaigns, talks, and exhibits



## Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center

To promote Mindoro's unspoiled natural beauty, the importance of its unique biodiversity and its impact on society and climate change, the richness of its culture, MBCFI plans to establish the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC) in Oriental Mindoro. The establishment of this iconic center will be a physical embodiment of sustainability, benefitting present and future generations by emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between people and natural resources. The proposed center will include facilities such as museum, library, audio-visual room, conference/training room, demonstration farm, forest restoration area, eco lodge and nature trail.

In 2018, the Deed of Usufruct had been signed which will take effect in 2019 up to 2039 and can be extended up to ten more years.

The Foundation will continue forward as we further strengthen our process maps, improve our business policies and processes, monitor and regularly evaluate our key performance indicators, invest in staff development, listen to our stakeholders and sustain our programs. We will actively look for more partners locally and internationally.

We are forever grateful to our funders and partners in conservation.

Together with our partners and key enablers, we will conserve Mindoro for our children and future generations. Kayang-kaya kung sama-sama!

Sebastian Quinones, Jr.  
Chairman  
On behalf of the Board of Trustees



## Green Path

## BIRDWATCHING 101: The Wonderful World of Birdwatching

by Maia S. Tañedo

Maybe you've heard the term before: birdwatching or birding. Maybe you let out a little snigger or commented something "green", particularly if you're Filipino and know the innuendo to the term "bird." Maybe you've come across people staring up at trees in awe, some with binoculars, some with cameras, and their gaze made you instinctively look up as well. "What the hell are they looking at?!" you may have silently thought to yourself as you tore your gaze away from the tree and went on your way. Those were probably birdwatchers (or birders) happily observing a bird, usually unseen to the "untrained" eye. Curious? Here's a crash course about the wonderful world of birdwatching.



## What is birdwatching anyway?

Birdwatching, very simply put, is watching birds. I am not being a wisecrack, and some parameters help to clearly define the hobby from the occasional "Oh look, there's a bird on top of my car." First, birdwatching is observing birds in their natural habitat. So that means, going to the zoo to admire that showy peacock does not count as birdwatching. Part of birdwatching is taking the time to observe a bird's physical appearance (or field marks) and also its behavior. Like any living thing (humans included), behavior changes once in captivity. Part of the joy of birdwatching is being able to witness a bird's natural behavior in the wild: pooping, hunting, courtship, mating, feeding of young... all these are treats to any birdwatcher's eyes. Think: NatGeo specials live before your own eyes!

Birdwatching can be as simple as sitting in your home lanai or veranda and taking the time to watch that black and white bird flick its tail back and forth while perched on the electric wire, to taking 6-hour trek up a mountain in search of a single bird. As long as you've taken some time to stop and appreciate the presence of a bird, no matter how common it may seem to be, that counts as birdwatching already.

## How do I start?

More often, people start by seeing a particular bird that is "NOT a Maya bird." The Mayas or Eurasian Tree Sparrows have become so common in urban areas in the Philippines that they have blended into the scene and are ignored by people. So much so that when a "not-a-Maya-bird" bird makes an appearance, it catches people's attention.

To really get started with birdwatching, I personally found it best to go with a group of more experienced birdwatchers. You can join a club or a birdwatching activity conducted by local groups in an area near you. If you're more the type, who wants to try things out solo first, the best place to start is in your backyard. Look around your neighborhood for what birds live in the trees. If you are lucky enough to live in a place with a park, spend some time there and listen to the different birds singing and maybe spot one or two even without binoculars. Nearby universities and campuses usually have lots of trees which can be great places to birdwatch even for a few hours in the morning.





## What do I need?

Basically, all you'll need is a pair of binoculars. Binoculars allow you to see a bird up close and observe its details without flushing it away. Borrow or buy, if you really get into birdwatching, you'll eventually want to invest in a good pair of bins or binocs. But if you're just starting out, a simple pair will do.

Aside from a pair of binoculars, a notebook is a handy tool to have, especially if you are just starting out. A small journal is used to take down fieldnotes: descriptions of birds you see, sketches (If you can draw. I can't.), and other notes you may have, like the location you birded it, the time you spent birding, as well as additional significant information like a bird's behavior you observed. This will help you identify the bird later on.

A field guide is another tool in a birdwatchers bag. A field guide helps you identify the birds you see. Being a beginning birder is an exciting time because almost all the birds you encounter are new! A field guide will be your best friend when it comes to naming all the beautiful birds you'll be seeing. There are some field guides for the Philippines available, but the most complete at the moment is the Guide to the Birds of the Philippines by Robert Kennedy.

Other items you may need while birdwatching: a bottle of water, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, small umbrella, etc. Just the usual items you would bring when you go out for a picnic or outing. It is also essential that you dress appropriately for birding. Wear colors that help you blend with the environment like greens and browns. This will allow you to be camouflaged and will not spook birds away compared to when you wear colors like red and white.

## Why birdwatch anyway?

Why oh why indeed. Birders sometimes ask themselves that question actually, truth be told, depending on the situation (usually during a long, challenging hike and it rains.) But basically, it makes us happy.

Remember when PokemonGo was first launched? Millions of people from all over the world went out of their houses in search of as many different kinds of Pokemons in different locations. Birdwatching is like that, actually. Birders go out in the field in search of as many different types of birds to see. Remember the feeling of finding your first Pikachu? That happiness is also felt when a birdwatcher sees a bird for the first time. And the first Pikachu is the most special right? There is an exhilarating feeling when you've successfully captured your first Pikachu and added it to your roster. In the world of birdwatching, seeing a bird for the first time is called a lifer (or life bird.) A new bird to add to your life list! And, like your first ever Pikachu, getting a lifer is always a special event, and you'll get lots of congratulations from your fellow birders, for sure.



You may have to sponsor celebratory coffee or dinner after, but that depends on what kind of birder friends you have. Kidding.

So, that, in a nutshell, is my way of introducing you to birdwatching. I hope more people will get interested in the hobby and learn to love the environment by watching birds. Happy birding!



# Virtual Tour of Mindoro's Key Biodiversity Areas

## Naujan Lake National Park

by Roderick C. Makiputin

The island of Mindoro is blessed with rich biodiversity brought by the different habitats found in the island. These habitats are attributed to the island's unique topography and geographic location. One particular habitat in Mindoro that supports aquatic species and terrestrial species is the freshwater wetlands, one of which is the Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP). NLNP host the fifth largest lake in the Philippines and considered as a priority area for conservation.



Naujan Lake National Park is an initial component under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) which lies on the north-east portion of Mindoro island, approximately 34 kilometers south of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro's provincial capital.

It was established as a National Park on the 27th of March 1956, through Presidential Proclamation No. 262 signed by President Ramon Magsaysay with a designated area of 21, 655 hectares. The protected area is bound by four municipalities, namely, Victoria, Naujan, Pola and Socorro. The lake has numerous inlets coming from mountain streams and springs with Butas River as the only outlet connected to the sea.

NLNP is an important area for conservation housing many species both aquatic and terrestrial. A research conducted in 2011 by Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) on species diversity in the protected area reveals that NLNP has high species diversity. A total of 105 species of birds, 21 species of mammals, 33 species of amphibians and reptiles were recorded. At least 40 (25%) of the recorded species were classified as endemics.



The NLNP is a wetland habitat that supports several vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered species, and a significant population of migratory birds. It is home to the endemic Philippine Duck (*Anas luzonica*) locally known as Papan. The lake also provides refuge to migratory birds like the Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) during the migration period. Thousands of Tufted Ducks and other migratory birds fly to the Philippines to take shelter from cold northern winter. Migrating birds spend a lot of energy flying from one area to another and wetlands serve as their resting place during migration. This is why the lake was declared as a wetland of international importance and is the 1008th Ramsar site worldwide and is the second Ramsar site in the Philippines on December 11, 1999.



## Eco-warriors on Spotlight

### Conservation and Protection of Naujan Lake National Park

by Rayson C. Alfante



Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP) is host to the fifth largest lake in the Philippines and considered as a Wetland of International Importance as it houses 1% of the total global population of Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). The Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and the Protected Area Office (PAO) is at the forefront of managing and conserving NLNP through the implementation of environmental laws and Conservation Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) activities. The PAO is headed by the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu), the chief implementing officer of the protected area. The undertakings of the PAO revolves around biodiversity monitoring, law enforcement, education, and public awareness. Check out some of the activities they conducted to protect and conserve the lake.

#### BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

##### Asian Waterbird Census 2018

One way of assessing the health of the lake is to monitor its biodiversity. Biodiversity monitoring activities of the NLNP PAO includes the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC), implementation of the biodiversity monitoring system (BMS), and waterbird monitoring.





The conduct of AWC in the protected area is part of the International Waterbird Census which provides data for the conservation and management of waterbirds and wetlands in the world. The 2018 AWC was able to document a total of 5,523 individuals comprised of 33 waterbird species including two newly recorded species: Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) and Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). The most abundant waterbird is the Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) with a total of 2,692 individuals recorded--that is almost half of the total number of recorded waterbirds in the 2018 AWC!

### Implementation of Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS)

Biodiversity Monitoring System is implemented in protected areas (PA) quarterly to monitor its biological resources and utilization. This endeavor will provide updated information that decision-makers will use to protect and conserve the PA. Methods include focused group discussion, field diary journaling, photo documentation, and transect walks.

To further strengthen the monitoring process, LAWIN Forest and Biodiversity Protection System was integrated into the traditional BMS.

The PAO also conducts a monthly waterbird monitoring in accordance to the agreed activity during the inaugural meeting of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) network on wetlands and migratory waterbirds conservation held on April 10-12, 2018. This system will also help monitor the population trends of waterbirds in the PA.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Engaging of 11 biodiversity green/blue brigade

The PAO urged the locals from different barangays within the PA to become green/blue brigade. The brigade assists the PAO in conducting foot patrolling and LAWIN biodiversity monitoring. They are also responsible for coordinating and disseminating information in their barangays.

### Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) Quarterly Meeting

The PAO is responsible for implementing environmental laws and policies within the PA, while the PAMB is the highest decision making body in a protected area. All activities to be conducted in a protected area must go through deliberation with issued resolutions by PAMB. The management board holds quarterly meetings to discuss matters related to the PA.

### Establishment of NLNP as a protected area under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System (E-NIPAS) Act

To further protect the park, the PAO, together with the PAMB and Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI), is working on its establishment as a protected area under E-NIPAS. A series of consultations, workshops, and meetings were conducted to draft a presidential proclamation and protected area bill. The process is on-going for the said endeavor.

## COMMUNICATION EDUCATION PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)

To continuously sustain the conservation and protection of the protected area, we need positive behavioral change towards biodiversity conservation. To achieve this, raising the awareness of the locals especially those that reside within and near the PA is essential. The PAO is regularly conducting environmental events and other awareness-raising activities to further increase the understanding of locals on the importance of the lake. Here are some of the activities continually being undertaken by the PAO to raise awareness.

### World Wetlands Day Celebration

The World Wetlands Day is annually celebrated every February 2 to raise awareness on the importance of wetland ecosystems. Different environmental awareness-raising activities are being conducted on this day such as bird watching, biodiversity talks, exhibits, among others.

### Biodiversity Lectures

As part of the awareness raising effort conducted in the PA, lectures on biodiversity conservation are conducted in schools surrounding the PA to educate the students on the significance of the wetland ecosystem and biodiversity.

To further pique the interest of the students, biodiversity talks were also conducted in iBangklase. It is a motorized catamaran where the students can enjoy the lecture while seeing the beauty of the protected area.

## Getting-to-know our Family

### Elvin Anthony M. Madamba (MBCC Project Manager)

by Kyle S. Cielo

Elvin is a Filipino-Canadian sustainability professional with key pursuits in international development and social investment. He took his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo in Canada and currently taking his Master's on Environment and Business in the same university.

He gained his experiences in sustainable development and social entrepreneurship in different countries in collaboration with various institutions, from Canada (University of Waterloo), the Philippines (Shell Philippines and My Heart Corporation--a startup company), Costa Rica (through Queen's University), and to the United Kingdom (University of Birmingham).

Currently, he is the organization's Project Manager leading the establishment of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC). The MBCC will promote the locals' and the general public's awareness of Mindoro's unspoiled natural beauty, the importance of its unique biodiversity, and its impact on society and climate change. Other than that, he is the Global Ambassador of University of Waterloo for the Philippines and Producer for Dual Citizen Series.

Even though Elvin has been educated in Canada and gained experiences from other parts of the world, he still chooses to work in the Philippines, because he believes in the capacity of Filipinos' to do good, and the capacity of the Philippines' to be great.





## Species in Focus

### The Philippine Duck

by Roderick C. Makiputin

Common name: Philippine Duck “Papan”  
Scientific name: *Anas luzonica*  
Conservation status: Vulnerable

The Philippine Duck (*Anas luzonica*) is one of the many beautiful bird species that can only be found in the Philippines. This species of duck is widely distributed throughout the country and usually encountered in marshes, shallow lakes, open sea, and rice fields. This species helps in keeping the balance in our ecosystem. They also serve as links in the transfer of nutrients from aquatic to terrestrial ecosystem. Despite its widespread distribution, the species is categorized as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) due to persistent threats such as hunting and habitat destruction. Some efforts, however, are being implemented for the protection and conservation of this species.

Philippine Ducks are medium-sized dabbling or surface-feeding birds, and the only duck species endemic to the Philippines. With its unique features, the Philippine Duck is a rather distinctive bird. Its body and legs are grayish-brown in color, blackish crown, and the presence of nape and eye stripe. When the species is in flight, a well-defined patch of glossy green on the wings can also be seen, it is bordered with black feather and edge with white feather. Male and female of this species looks similar while juveniles are slightly paler than the adults.



This endemic species also inhabits the Naujan Lake National Park, Oriental Mindoro. Locally known as Papan, this species forages in the waters of the lake for shrimp, fish, insects, and plants. Philippine Duck helps control the population of other species. They regulate the population of insects and other invertebrates found in the lake that can become pests devastating to agriculture if left unchecked. They also serve as a biological indicator for the health of the wetland habitat which can be essential for decision-making, and conservation planning and implementations.



Its current population trend is decreasing due to hunting and wildlife trade. In some areas in the Philippines, this species is being hunted for its meat. Another factor which contributes to the population decline of the Philippine Duck is habitat loss, specifically the conversion of its natural habitat to other land use.

The Philippine Duck, as with other wildlife, is protected by Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. RA 9147 promotes ecological balance and enhances biodiversity by protecting wildlife species and their habitats. Under Section 35, it promotes the adoption of a flagship species to promote conservation and protection of species and habitat. The Naujan Lake National Park - Protected Area Management Board adopted Philippine Duck to be the flagship species of the protected area. This will boost the awareness, conservation and protection efforts for Philippine Ducks in the protected area, as well as preserve its habitat along with other important species sharing that habitat.

## The MBCFI Way

### Annual Asian Waterbird Census

by Don Geoff E. Tabaranza

Many migratory birds travel along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway seeking temporary refuge during the non-breeding season, between September to April. Some of these migratory birds are observed in Naujan Lake National Park (NLNP), a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site), an initial component under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), and a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Mindoro.



Waterbird censuses are conducted repeatedly for long-term monitoring of wetlands. The presence and number of observed waterbirds are important indicators to determine the health and quality of wetlands (Wetlands International, n.d.). On January 17-18, 2019, the NLNP Protected Area Office assisted by MBCFI, conducted the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) for Naujan Lake with participants from various DENR offices and partner organizations. AWC aimed at monitoring the populations of migrant, resident and endemic waterbirds in NLNP; documenting new species records, if any; and institutionalizing and sustaining the conduct of waterbird census in NLNP.



The briefing and orientation were conducted in the afternoon of January 17, 2019. An overview of the physical and biodiversity profile of Naujan Lake National Park was provided followed by a briefing on the identification marks to distinguish waterbird species with similar appearance as well as methods for counting and estimating flocks of birds. Participants were assigned to teams, and target routes/sites were also discussed. The actual census started at 6:30 AM on January 18, 2019.



Among the waterbird species recorded, 16 are migratory species (47%), 15 are resident species (44%), and two are Philippine endemics (6%). Only one threatened species was recorded – the endemic Philippine Duck which is listed as Vulnerable (VU) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A total of 3,653 individuals from 39 species were observed. The most numerous species is the migratory Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) with 1,647 which comprised almost half of the total count. This is followed by 410 individuals of Wandering Whistling Ducks (*Dendrocygna arcuata*).

Noticeably absent are the huge flocks of thousands of migratory Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) which ranged from 13,500 to 15,000 individuals annually between years 2011 to 2015. A total of 729 Tufted Ducks were recorded during a waterbird survey on the lake on December 3, 2018. Boatmen and local fishermen also report observing large flocks of ducks in few days prior to the census. Only 58 individuals were observed by Team 1 near the Western edge and an additional 59 by Team 3 from the Southeastern portion of the lake. There are several possible reasons for the very low counts of Tufted Ducks: (1) they could be in a secluded portion of the lake, (2) they may have transferred to another suitable wetland habitat other than Naujan Lake in response to yet unknown stimuli, or (3) they have started Northward migration, returning to their breeding grounds earlier than expected.



## The MBCFI Way

### World Wetlands Day Celebration 2019

by Jezryl Jaeger L. Garcia

Wetlands are diverse and productive ecosystems that are defined as areas that are either permanently or seasonally flooded with water. Such areas exist all around the globe and provide multiple benefits to humans and other living creatures. To highlight the importance of these ecosystems, an international celebration called World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually every 2nd day of February. For the year 2019, we are celebrating with a theme "Wetlands and Climate Change" to remind everyone that wetlands serve a significant role in mitigating climate change and minimizing the damage of environmental impacts.

In celebration of the World Wetlands Day, the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) together with the Naujan Lake National Park Protected Area Office (NLNP-PAO) conducted an awareness campaign on February 1, 2019, at Aurelio Arago Memorial National High School (AAMNHS), Brgy. Leido, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. MBCFI's Project and Resource Development Officer, Mr. Jezryl Jaeger Garcia, along with Mr. Jose Maria Fontanilla and Mr. Rayson Alfante of NLNP-PAO talked about Mindoro biodiversity, wetlands, and climate change to 94 high school students of AAMNHS. The students have shown active participation during the event as demonstrated by their response during recitations and clarifications during and after the talks.





# Comics

## Importance of Migratory Birds

by Roderick C. Makiputin

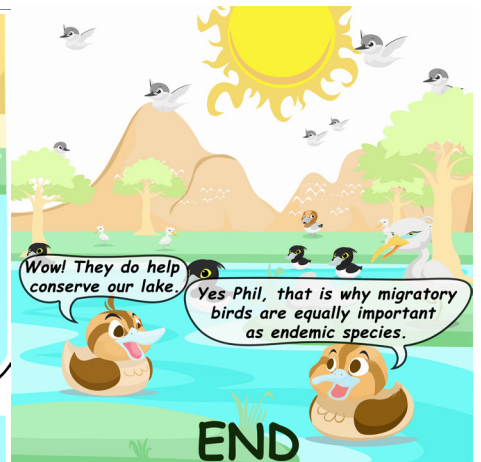
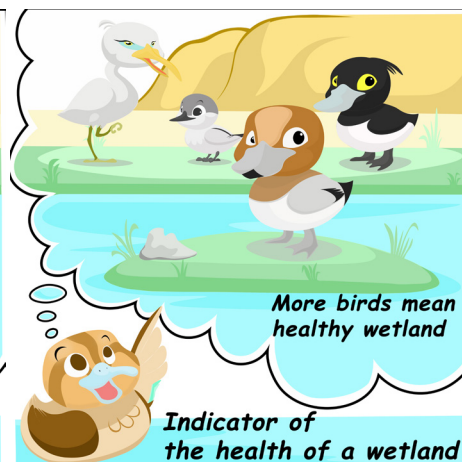
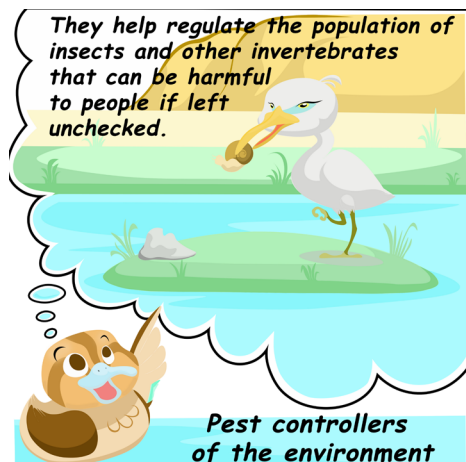
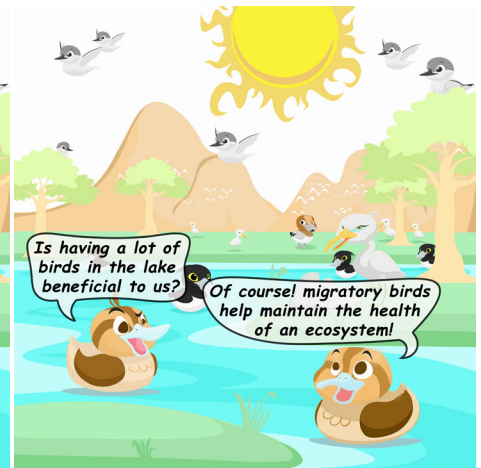
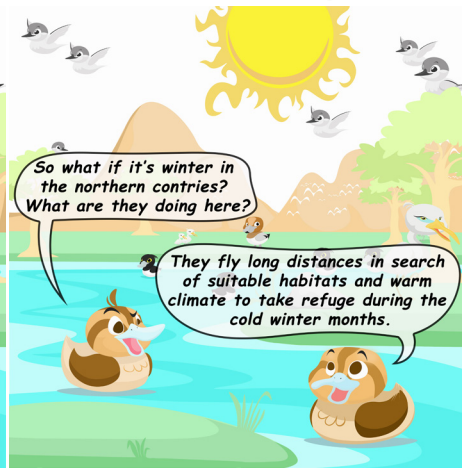
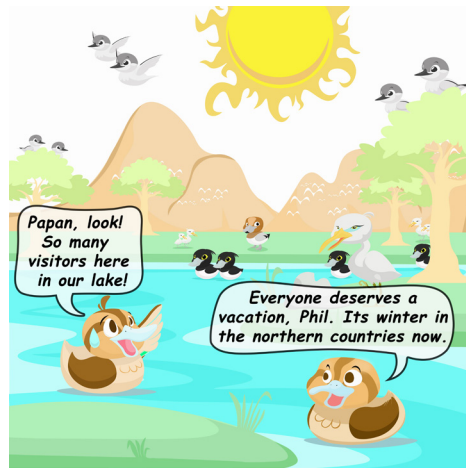


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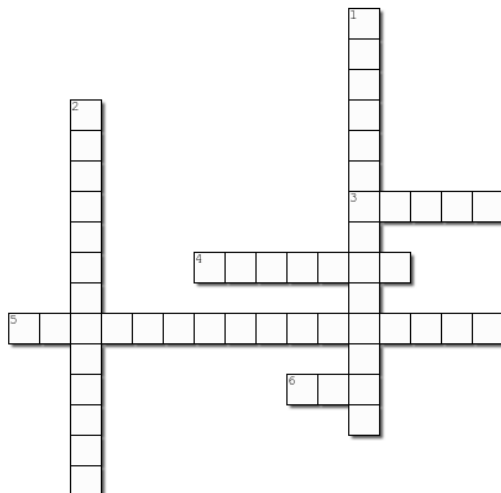
Papan



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wetlands

Complete the crossword puzzle below, send a screenshot to our FB page (@MindoroBiodiversity), and get a chance to win a set of our 10th-year Commemorative Items (Cap, T-shirt, Ecobag)



#### Across

- Local name of the Philippine Duck
- A distinct ecosystem that is inundated by water, either permanently or seasonally.
- An environmental event celebrated every February 2.
- The bird census conducted every January.

#### Down

- The Flagship species of Naujan Lake National Park
- The regular seasonal movement of birds, often north and south along a flyway, between breeding and wintering grounds

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

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