

Project Update: December 2011

Within the limits of the project on preservation of the white-tailed eagle, the imperial eagle, and the greater spotted eagle populations in the territory of Respublika Tatarstan, supported by Rufford Small Grants Fund, in Autumn 2011, the preliminary work on the evaluation of bird deaths on power lines of average capacity 6 and 10 kV was conducted.

The main purpose of this work was to estimate the damage from bird deaths on power lines and to begin the work on revealing of the most dangerous areas and sites of power lines which need to be modernised in the first instance to make them safe for birds. Certainly, this work requires continuation as it is impossible to make a complete estimation of the given problem for one autumn season.

The research was conducted in 14 administrative regions of Tatarstan. In total, 122 km of power lines 6 -10 kV were surveyed. Altogether, 191 corpses and remains of the birds of 13 species were found. The average density of bird deaths was about 1.5 individuals on 1 km of power line. The research has highlighted proof of bird deaths on power lines 6-10 kV.



The results of the research were reported at the scientific-practical seminar: «Problems of bird's death and ornithological safety on air power lines of the average capacity ... », held in Ulyanovsk city on November 10th and 11th 2011. The seminar was organised by the Russian Bird Conservation Union. The problem of bird deaths on power lines was also highlighted in the mass-media.



According to the results of the research the general director of the public corporation «Network company» Safiullin D.K. was sent the letter with an explanation of the problem and the proposal of elaboration stage-by-stage plan of modernisation of power lines with the purpose to make them safe for birds. Negotiations with other possessors of the dangerous power lines have been conducted.

The lectures on the problem of bird deaths were given for the students of Geographical Faculty of Naberezhnochelninskiy Institute of Social-pedagogical Technologies and Resources, of Ecological Faculty Kama State Academy of Engineering and Economics in the city of Naberezhnye Chelny and for the students of Biological Faculty of Kazan (Privolzhskiy) branch of the Federal University in Elabuga city. Three students were involved into the work.

Simultaneously in the autumn of 2011 the work on revealing of new eagle's nest sites was conducted. In total, two nests of the white-tailed eagle, 14 nests of the imperial eagle and three nests of the greater spotted eagle were found.