

Project Update: June 2014

The most important threats to waders in Homeland of the Crane in the last years are large-scale meadow ploughing and transformation of farmlands into lands for building country houses for Moscow residents. To develop mitigation measures for these threats new data on distribution and ecology of great snipe and other rare species are needed.

In 2013-2014 we participated in several public hearings organised by local authorities for discussion of plans of the area development for the next 20-25 years. As a result practical recommendations for conservation of valuable farmlands (including prevention of construction of country houses on farmlands) were developed and implemented in the form of corrections to 20-year plans in the Taldom district and parts of the Sergiev-Posad district. Permanent communication with all active land users in April-May 2014 was aimed at minimising negative effect to breeding waders from the ploughing and at conserving suitable habitats for rare species.

New field studies on distribution and ecology of globally threatened great snipe were started in 2014; 21 birds were caught and banded by the project team by the end of May 2014.

A set of stickers with photos of rare waders was published in March 2014 and they are being used now for educational activities in the project framework.



Left. Discussion of conservation recommendations with Director of agricultural enterprise. © O. Grinchenko. Right. Banding of great snipe. © V. Avdanin.