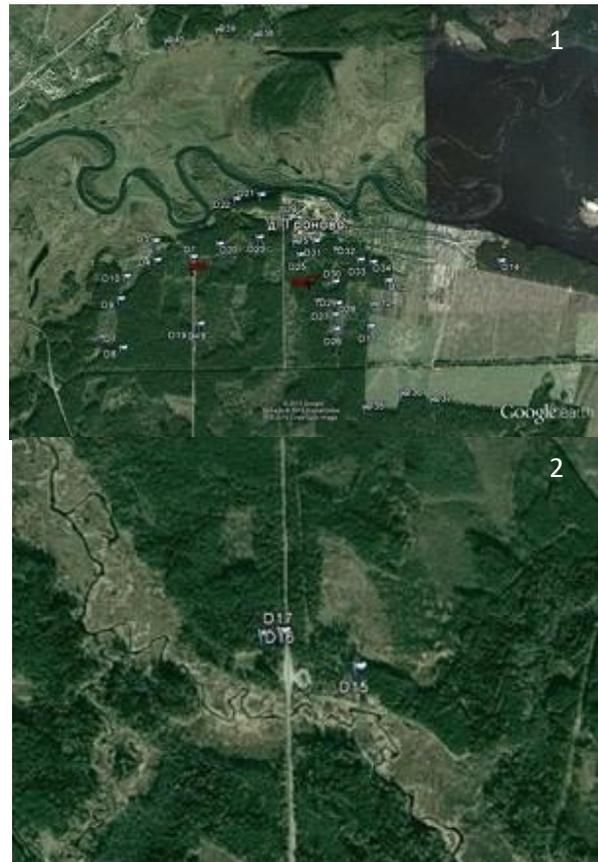


Project Update: July 2015

We have constructed and installed the second batch of 30 nest boxes for roller in the breeding site "Gronovo" (Mogilev district) in collaboration with the Forestry Cherikov in April 2015. Thus, the total number of hollow nests reached 40. We are satisfied that two of 40 nest boxes (D2 and D6) were occupied by roller at the first year after installing! (Pic.1,2). Moreover, 54% of the installed nest-boxes were used by various bird's species. Species such as common redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), great tit (*Parus major*), and common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were common among them.

Census works for roller in potential breeding sites was carried out in May - July 2015 (Pic. 3).



3

Unfortunately, only two rollers nesting places - Gronovo (Mogilev region) and Borovoe (Gomel region) are now known and reliably confirmed. The rollers number was estimated at 4-5 pairs in breeding site "Gronovo" and two pairs in breeding site "Borovoe" in this year.

The protecting rings against marten on trees were placed close to holes and nest-boxes occupied by the roller breeding pairs. All the nest hollows were mechanically cleaned. The data on chick feeding and the sampling of chick feathers for the next evaluation of the effectiveness of their feeding by using the ptilochronology were collected. Nine roller chicks were ringed with metal and colored plastic rings.



Camera-trap was placed near nest-box D2. Complete information about the daily activity of roller near the nest during incubation of eggs and feeding of chicks obtained with this camera-trap (Pic 4).

Negotiations with the local authorities on the establishment of the reserve on the territory of roller's habitat in the Gomel region (Borovoe) have been conducted. The issue is under consideration by a state authority.

The results of the project were reported at International theoretical and practical conference "Zoological reading" (Grodno, 22nd-24th April 2015).