

Project Update: July 2014

We have taken part in International European Roller Best Practice Workshop – a meeting of roller conservation practitioners from across Europe – in April 2014. The event was organised and financed by OTOP, the Polish BirdLife partner, as part of their EU funded “Active forms of protection of the European Roller” project. Fifty experts from 14 countries attended in the seminar. I presented information about status of the roller in Belarus during this meeting, also study and conservation activities which are carried out with financial support of Rufford Small Grants. The main result of the workshop is the exchange experiences and establishes international contacts for best study and conservation of the Roller in Europe.

<http://www.coracias-research.co.uk/european-roller-best-practice-workshop-warsaw-9-10-april-2014>

Camera-trap (Reconyx HC600) and plastic for preparing protecting rings on the trees with roller nest holes against marten (*Martes martes*) was purchased in May 2014.

Census works for roller was carried out in May - July 2014 both in known breeding sites and potential breeding sites near border with Lithuania. This territory was selected after contacts with Lithuanian ornithologists and consultations about roller nesting close to Belarus border. Feeding of roller on the territory of Belarus was discovered but nesting in the current year has not been observed during field trips.

Rollers number was estimated at four pairs in previously detected breeding site "Gronovo" (Mogilev district). Rollers number in the same area was estimated at three pairs in 2013. An additional two pairs of roller were found in "Borovoe" (Gomel district) in this year. We did not find the roller in "Milevichi" (Minsk district) where we recorded two pairs in 2013. Birds after successfully breeding in the previous year didn't come back from wintering.

The protecting rings against marten on trees were placed close to holes 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. Five roller chicks from two nests were ringed with metal and colored plastic rings.

We constructed and installed the first batch of 10 nest boxes for roller in the breeding site "Gronovo" (Mogilev district) in collaboration with the Forestry Cherikov. Database for tracking the location of nests and their effectiveness has been developed and updated data.

