

Project Update: November 2014

In October 2014, the first survey in Mangistau region regarding assessment of bird mortality caused by power lines (6-10kV) was implemented. Total length of surveyed power lines that are situated along pipelines and belong to state companies KazTransOil and KazTransGaz is around 400 km. We counted bird carcasses that were killed by electrocution in 2013-2014 (approximate age of carcasses were assessed by state of remains). During the survey we found carcasses of 35 eagles (*Aquila* sp.), 13 buzzards (*Buteo* sp.), five eagle owls (*Bubo bubo*), two saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*), one black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), three ravens (*Corvus corax*) and four rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*). All above listed birds were killed by electrocution when they tried to perch on power line structures. Furthermore, we met with representatives of regional environmental agencies to receive some information on overall length of power lines grid (6-10 kV) as well as to set up interaction with power lines owners.

Project coordinator Fedor Sarayev with the carcass of saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) electrocuted by power line. *Falco cherrug* is listed in the IUCN Red List and Red Book of Kazakhstan.



This time buzzard *Buteo rufinus* had luck and avoided electrocution because it rested on a T-shaped perch. However, this power line structure design is not safe and fraught with danger: we found bird carcasses very often under these structures.



This power line structure is reequipped with effective, dielectric bird protective devices. However, so far total length of similar modified power lines in Kazakhstan is negligible.

