

Project Update: October 2015

The low water level of rivers and the loss of spring floods haven't made it possible circumstances to create new loess wall breaks and to refresh the river walls of old colonies. As a consequence, there were much less fresh nesting places available to the birds, which meant that this year there would be a significant proportion of the birds who will nest in places away from the waters, e.g. in sand pits. Unfortunately, these sites prove a much smaller security to them.

After seeing the current circumstances, we tried to help them hurry with refreshing the river walls (where there are colonies), so we wanted to offer them new opportunities for breeding. In our surveys we tried to turn our attention as much as possible to the populations which were nesting in colonies in non-natural habitats.

Thanks to the mapping, we found 34 colonies of bee-eaters and sand martins existing in natural habitats, or we received information about these from colleagues.



During July we started ringing and organised numerous ringing actions for the public, additionally, we also managed to organise some smaller ringing camps.



Together with colleagues, we ringed a large number of exemplars of both species. This year nearly 2000 sand martins and bee-eaters have been marked during our actions. During the actions, we recaptured nearly 320 in previous years and in other countries ringed birds, which provide us with very important data about the survival rate, the dispersion, migration. From this year's large number of ringed birds we also hope in the same way that they will get us significant information in the next few years with their recoveries, recaptures.



Foto: Barna Krisztián

In parallel to the field events, we started with a series of informative presentations, seminars as well. Some of them have already taken place during the ringing actions, but in some other camps and places (Senta, Ada, Titel) we also give presentations.



Foto: Barna Krisztián



Foto: Barna Krisztián

During these period, we tried to be present in the media as much as possible, and to promote our protection activities, researching actions. For example:

http://www.magyarso.com/hu/2776/vajdasag_zenta/130688/Hol-lakik-a-gyurgyalag.htm

In a short documentary film about our colleague we also tried to emphasize, to present the research and protection work on the sand martin and bee-eater. Link:

<http://www.rts.rs/page/tv/sr/story/20/RTS+1/2027987/Eko+karavan:+Nenad+i+ptice.html>