

Project Update: August 2019

Census works for the roller was carried out from May - July 2019 in known breeding sites on the territory of Cherikov and Lelchitsy regions. A few messages with information about registration of the roller in Minsk and Gomel regions we received from visitors of the internet site "Roller in Belarus" and checked it. Unfortunately we didn't find new nesting places of the roller in current season.

Protecting rings against marten (*Martes martes*) were placed on trees with holes occupied by the roller breeding pairs. All the nest-hollows were mechanically cleaned. The additional fertilising of roller with banana and two-spotted crickets as a feed for eliminates food shortages was successful. Complete information about the daily activity of roller near the nest during feeding of chicks obtained with this camera-trap. Roller chicks were ringed with metal and coloured plastic rings.

We checked the survival rate of young oak trees that were planted last autumn. The abnormally dry autumn of last year led to the death of 40% of plants. In some plants, a partial death of the aerial part and a new growth from the root were observed. Several experimental young trees planted without a protective net died as a result of eating by animals. These results will be taken into account when planting young oak trees in the next autumn period.



Left: Seedlings eaten by animals. Middle: Oak seedling. Right: A new seedling showing growth.

We have the first recovery of the roller with colour ring in Belarus. This bird was ringed by chick 1 year ago. Ringed roller found 2 km from the place of ringing and stimulated to feed chicks in the nests of other pair.



Left: Roller ringed previous year. Middle: Ringed chick. Right: Roller nest.

The Roller in Belarus website (<http://sizovorodka.by>) created within the framework of this project won the competition for non-profit websites in Belarus <https://www.belta.by/tech/view/belorusy-vybrali-samyj-dobryj-sajt-346180-2019/>.

The competition was attended by 400 sites. The Roller in Belarus website got 8600 votes, what is 47.2% of all voters. The event was widely covered in the media:

<https://minsknews.by/pochemu-ischezaet-populyatsiya-sizovoronki-uchenye-sozdali-sayt-dlya-spaseniya-redkogo-vida-pernatyih/>;

<http://greenbelarus.info/articles/18-03-2019/sayt-pro-belaruskuyu-sinyuyu-pticu-v-tope-poleznyh-proektov-bayneta>;

http://24d.by/istorii-saytov/http_sizovoronka_by/;

<https://naviny.by/article/20190430/1556650561-u-nas-internet-v-krovi-kak-kislorod-baynetu-ispolnyaetsya-25-let>;

<https://ont.by/news/belorusy-vybrali-samyj-dobryj-sajt-i-eto-internet-resurs-o-malenkoj-tropicheskoj-ptichke>.