

## Project Update: April 2013

Field work in spring 2013 should include:

- artificial nest cleaning and repairing;
- surveys for breeding pairs;
- continuation of building of Visitor Center of the Scaly-sided Merganser Field Station [SSMFS] in Kishinevka village (east slope of Sikhote-Alin Range, South Primorye);
- erection of ready artificial nests on Zhuravlevka River (west slope of Sikhote-Alin Range).

Artificial nest cleaning and repairing was completed by local volunteers Oleg and Igor Voronoy and Ekaterina Volkova in the period from 9 March to 9 April 2013. Pest species and their nests as black and flying squirrels, hornets and Ural owl were removed from artificial nests. A total of 72 artificial nests were visited and cleaned and 17 of them were repaired.

Project material for Diana Solovyeva and Sergey Vartanyan arrived Primorye on 11th April 2013 and they continued building of Visitor centre. This work was stopped in November 2012 with the winter beginning and the end of field work. Building of walls was finished on 24th April 2013 and building of ruff, installation of windows and floor is planned for following days.

Following rivers were surveyed for breeding pairs of scaly-sided merganser and other waterfowl, Kievka, Lazovka, Krivaya, and Partizanskaya. Surveys of Avvakumovka, Vasilkovka and Zhuravlevka rivers are planned for the end of April.

Erection of artificial nests on Zhuravlevka River is planned for the middle of May 2013 when forest roads dry from snow melt.



Photo 1. Survey of Krivaya R, April 2013. Volunteer Igor Voronoy driving rubber boat.



Photo 2 (historical). Building of SSMFS Visitor Center – September 2012.



Photo 3. Building of SSMFS Visitor Center – April 2013.



Photo 4. A pair of scaly-sided merganser on Krivaya R during boat survey, April 2013.



Photo 5. Volunteer Ekaterina Volkova is cleaning nest tube, March 2013.