

Project Update: October 2012

Field work on set up of nest boxes and building of Scaly-sided Merganser Field Station [SSMFS] in Kishinevka village (east slope of Sikhote-Alin Range, South Primorye) started on 16 September 2012. Team members Sergey Vartanyan, Nelly Ivanova and Diana Solovyeva arrived Kishinevka village on 18 of September at the day when typhoon *Sanba* reached South Primorye. During following days water level in rivers was extremely high and the project team including above mentioned people and local team members Oleg Voronoy and Pavel Mokhov was working on building of nest boxes and SSMFS (see photos 1 to 3). At the same time project volunteer Vasiliy Luzganov from Shumnyi village (west slope of Sikhote-Alin Range, Central Primorye, 60 km from Zhuravlevka R) built 20 nest tubes for distribution on Zhuravlevka R – planned second “Scaly-sided Merganser incubator”. Other part of the field team arrived from St-Petersburg on the 2 of October, they were Natalia Vartanyan, Grigoriy Solovyev and Olga Grebneva. We set 5 nest boxes up on Kievka R (first SSM incubator) to replace old and destroyed boxes of 2003 on 3-5 October and we set up 5 nest boxes on Avvakumovka R on 6-7 October (see photos 4 to 8). Nest boxes on Kievka R are of experimental type with additional side entrance. Side entrance is suggested for the hen to escape the cavity when mammalian predator (Sable or Martin) intrudes (see photo). Side entrance is covered with metal ruff to protect nest lining from rain. This type of box’ construction is new and we never checked this type of boxes before. The results are expected in spring 2013 and following years.



Photo 1. Sergey Vartanyan (left) and Oleg Voronoy are building toilet on SSMFS.



Photo 2. Building of nest boxes on SSMFS.



Photo 3. Building of SSMFS Visitor Center.



Photo 4. Erecting of nest box with side entrance on Kievka R. Grigoriy Solovyev on top.



Photo 5. Nest box with side entrance poorly fits to rubber boat: two boat teams were involved in box erection. Boat crew Sergey Vartanyan and Olga Grebneva.



Photo 6. Erecting of nest box with side entrance on Kievka R. Pavel Mokhov on top.



Photo 7. Carrying of the box and it's cover to the site on Avvakumovka R.



Photo 8. Erecting of nest box on Avvakumovka R. Grigoriy Solovyev on top.