

Project Update: August 2012

In addition to roller nests which were found in June 2012, we found two nests in the "Gronovo" in July. Thus, the total number of the nests which were found during this breeding season was six. All the trees with roller nest hollows have been protected with plastic rings against martens. All the nest hollows were mechanically cleaned and the data on chicks feeding were collected. As a result, there were no cases of predation in the protected hollows and 100% of hatched chicks successfully flew from hollows. The breeding success was estimated.

The size of clutches and the number of fertilised eggs were limiting factors of the breeding success during current breeding season. Twelve Roller chicks were ringed with metal and coloured plastic rings.

Unfortunately, we did not receive any information about new breeding areas of the roller in Belarus by distribution of questionnaire forms. However, the forestry enterprises received information about the roller in Belarus as well as how to make and where to put the nest boxes for this species.

Still, we hope to find new breeding areas of the roller during next breeding season.

