

Project Update: July 2013

Census works for roller was carried out in May - July 2013 both in known breeding sites and two potential breeding sites. Unfortunately, we have not found any rollers in potential breeding sites near Kobrin and Mikhashevichi (Brest district). In "Gronovo" (Mogilev district) roller number was estimated at three pairs, as in 2012. In "Milevichi" (Minsk district) roller number was estimated at two pairs, as in 2009. In 2012, rollers number in this area was estimated at 4 - 5 pairs. This year, one pair of the roller was found in "Borovoe" (Gomel district). In 2012, we did not find the roller in this area!

All pairs occupied new hollows and one pair occupied an old nest-box which was placed 8 years ago. The protecting rings against marten (*Martes martes*) on trees with holes occupied by the roller breeding pairs had been lost.

All the nest-hollows were mechanically cleaned and the data on chick feeding were collected. There were no cases of predation in the protected hollows and 100% of hatched chicks successfully flew from hollows, like last year! Ten roller chicks were ringed with metal and coloured plastic rings. A total of 23 chicks of the roller were ringed during two breeding seasons.

The breeding pairs of roller were photographed using a camera with 20x zoom for finding birds ringed by colour rings in the past year. Unfortunately, we did not find ringed birds on the pictures with sufficient quality and good angle shot. The experience shows low efficiency of finding the colour-ringed birds by this method because the rollers are very shy in the nest territory and we have not sufficiently powerful optics. We plan to use of camera-trap in next year, which will be install in front of the hollow occupied by a pair of the roller.



