

Project Update: December 2012

Hay or pastures were used for breeding in 2012 by 73% of Eurasian curlews, 97% of black-tailed godwits, and 75% of common redshanks; during migration most waders fed on arable lands. Accordingly, cultivated farmlands play an important role in long-term conservation of waders. A new threat to waders in Homeland of the Crane has appeared in the period of the project implementation. Vast areas



of agricultural lands have recently become a subject of reclamation for building country houses for Moscow residents. This activity will destroy habitats of all farmland birds forever. TAPNA initiated an urgent public campaign against this threat and was able to involve broad circles of conservationists in the process (several national NGOs with focus on conservation of birds and environmental issues, mass media, etc.). The importance of creation of Nature Park for both sustainable agriculture and bird conservation in the Homeland of the Crane was emphasized in a letter to the Governor of the Moscow region. Several publications were produced by the project leaders and volunteers, emphasizing advantages of the nature-friendly development in the Homeland of the Crane area both for nature and agriculture, with eventual benefit for entire local community. An extreme danger of this new threat and a need to make urgent steps for conserving agricultural lands as important bird habitats were highlighted at the Conference of the Wader Study Group of Northern Eurasia and Conference on Ecological problems of the Moscow region.