

Project Update: August 2013

In March and April of 2013 two meetings were organised when all together 150 appropriate artificial nest boxes planned for attracting the European roller (*Coracias garrulus*) have been built.



In the weeks after the box building, 80 new nest boxes were mounted, as well as the cleaning and maintenance of the next boxes occupied in the preceding breeding season. The remaining nests will be mounted in spring of 2014, thereby increasing the number of the potential European roller habitats.



The systematic monitoring of the roller habitats started from the end of April 2013, when the first rollers arrived from the wintering grounds. This year, the spring has been unusually cold in Europe. Unfortunately, the prolonged periods of cold weather had a negative consequence on the nesting activity resulting in a noteworthy delayed and extended nesting period.



From June 2013, we started to check the occupied nest boxes regularly. This allowed us to obtain more accurate data about the reproduction and reproductive success of the rollers. During this period, all the roller chicks were examined and marked with coloured rings.



The number of the motivated young and older people became involved into our research activities proves that the protection of this turquoise bird species has attracted considerable attention.