

Project Update: September 2013

We continued our study of the spotted eagle in the first and second weeks of August 2013. This year, we expanded our search area and in addition to Rivne, we visited Volyn region.

Initially we planned to monitor the breeding success of known breeding territories of the spotted eagle, which were found in the Rivne region in 2012 and band nestlings using coloured rings. Thus, we marked three nestlings, one of which was a hybrid (*Aquila clanga* x *A. pomarina*.)

We also examined the drainage systems and wetlands of the western part of Rivno region. One territorial bird was noted on the border with Volyn region on reclamation lands near the valley of the river Stokhid and two pairs in bottomland of the river Pripyat.

In the Volyn region, we surveyed a large part of the valley of the river Pripyat, where we found seven new territories inhabited by spotted eagle. Eagles chose for hunting the most flooded areas.

Because of our research as of 2013, 10 new nesting territories of spotted eagle in Ukraine were discovered - three in Rivne region (Sarnesky , Dubrovitsky and Rakitnovsky districts) and seven in the Volyn region (Lyubeshovsky, Kamen-Kashirsky and Ratnivsky districts), some of which may be new hybrid with lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*).

It is pleasant to note that our preliminary estimate of 10-20 breeding pairs of eagles was underestimated. On the basis of the research and new data population of spotted eagle in Ukraine could be estimated as 25-30 pairs.

Additionally, we have identified seven regional lesser spotted eagles and 10 short-toed eagles. The most widespread were marsh harrier, buzzard and honey buzzard, sparrowhawk and Montagu's harrier, goshawk, hobby and kestrel. We also saw two young red-footed falcons in different places in the Rivne region.

More detailed materials can be viewed online at Ukrainian Birds of Prey Research Center <http://raptors.org.ua/ru/632>



