

Project Update: June 2019

During this breeding season (March– May 2019), the Indian spotted eagle (*Aquila hastata*) project research team spent a total of 27 days in the field. All seven known nesting sites were visited but only three breeding pairs were found. However, two new nests were discovered in Panchagarh (north-west) and Pabna (central-west), where nests were built on Sal tree (*Shorea robusta*) and Sissoo tree (*Dalbergia sissoo*).

Overall, five nests (including two new nests) were monitored this season, where both male and female took part in nest building and incubation, although the females participated in incubation more than the males. Out of three previously identified nesting pairs, two nested on the same nesting tree as previous years and one nested c. 200 m away from regular nesting tree. All pairs began incubation by April 2019 and males were observed providing food (frog, lizard, bird and rat $n=6$) to the incubating females.

In addition to the scientific work conducted by the project, six young conservationists (including undergraduate students) were trained on raptor research technique.



Left: Breeding pair copulating near nesting tree in Rajshahi, 3 April 2019. ©Omar Shahadat. Right: Newly discovered breeding pair on nesting tree in Pabna, 19 April 2019. © Sayam U Chowdhury.