

Project Update: November 2015

We began our project on time as we planned.

From the beginning of March, we started gathering information about the currently active breeding colonies of the two species from our colleagues and helpers. Hereafter, until the birds return, we performed the refreshing of the walls, cleaning up and disturbing the vegetation of the known colonies where it was necessary.



Foto: Barna Krisztián



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Unfortunately, due to the changeable spring of this year, the return of sand martins and bee-eaters was shifted. There were several birds that had arrived at the expected time from their wintering grounds, but numerous flocks returned to their breeding area only a few weeks later than conventional. This phenomenon was observed by other bird species also. As a result of this, its nesting period was highly stratified.

At the end of May during our field activities, we started the mapping of breeding colonies in their natural habitats, especially along the river Tisza and Danube, where still exist places suitable for nesting. We also controlled the walls of old riverbeds and oxbows, and it gave us a great pleasure to find some of their colonies there.



Foto: Barna Krisztián



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It also gave us a great pleasure to find nesting bee-eaters again on several places where they hadn't bred for many years. We are optimistic and we hope that after our activities this will be sustainable for a long time and their numbers will grow even more.

Parallel with this, we have tried to collect information as much as we can about their all other (not only in natural habitat occurring) colonies too. We consider that the enumeration of these is a very important aspect, because they provide extremely valuable information for the additional protection measures. With the knowledge about their number, we get a good picture on the level of comparison of how much these places are preferred among the birds for selection as a nest site.



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