

## Project Update: July 2016

The necessary equipment was purchased in May 2016.

Census work for the roller was carried out in May - July 2016 in known breeding sites in the territory of Cherkov, Zhitkovichi and Lelchitsy regions and potential breeding sites in the territory of Minsk, Grodno and Mogilev regions. A new area 240 km<sup>2</sup> of roller potential breeding sites was observed as a result. One new place of roller nesting was discovered in floodplain of Neman River (Grodno district). In addition, the roller numbers were estimated at 3-5 pairs in breeding site "Gronovo" (Mogilev district) and 2 pairs in Gomel region.

Protecting rings against marten (*Martes martes*) were placed on trees with holes occupied by the roller breeding pairs. All the nest hollows were mechanically cleaned. Sampling of chicks' feathers for the next evaluation of the effectiveness of their feeding by using the ptilochronology were collected. Roller chicks were ringed with metal and colored plastic rings.

Camera traps were placed near nest holes. Complete information about the daily activity of roller near the nest during feeding of chicks were obtained with this camera trap.

Piles of manure and sawdust were removed and placed on nesting territories of roller in Cherkov district.

We have perfect result of using of forage points on roller nesting territory. We found out (with use of camera traps) that the roller quickly found the forage point and used it very actively. Thus, we can recommend the use of forage points with *Gryllus assimilis* for feeding of rollers to eliminate food shortages during rainy and cold weather.

The information about the project was published on website of State Scientific and Production Amalgamation "Scientific-practical center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for biological resources" <http://biobel.by/index.php/vse-novosti/338-v-tekushchem-godu-startuet-3-ya-stadiya-proekta-booster-grant-po-sokhraneniyu-sizovoronki-v-belarusi>, in journal "Ptushki i mi", web-site of APB-Birdlife Belarus <http://www.ptushki.org/info/press/item/16965.html> and newspaper "Vecherni Mogilev".



Left: Forage point. Right: Nest hole.



Left: Ringed chick. Right: Protecting ring.



Left: Manure. Right: Sawdust.