

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Valery Shokhrin
Project title	Blakiston's fish owl in Southern Primorye: living next-door to people
RSG reference	43.06.08
Reporting period	October 2008 - April 2010
Amount of grant	£4527
Your email address	shokhrin@mail.ru
Date of this report	5th June 2010

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Spring nocturnal surveys of breeding calls with mapping of pair/single male territories			+	
Building and erecting of 25 artificial nests			+	
Voice recording and individual identification		+		3 voices of different individuals were recorded, no identification is done

2. PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES THAT AROSE DURING THE PROJECT AND HOW THESE WERE TACKLED (IF RELEVANT).

Some difficulties occurred during the project, as follows.

1. I defended PhD in early December 2008 and thus was able to start project work only in mid-December 2008. Dry wood was absent at Wood Sale Companies and obtaining of dry wood lasted for 3 months.
2. Surveys for breeding pairs and voices recording started on March 2009 and we managed to erect two artificial nests (ANs) in March 2009 due to severe snow conditions and late arrival of dry material for ANs.
3. In September 2009 we started AN erection, but I was involved in a car accident in early October 2009. Rented car was destroyed completely and I was placed in hospital and was unable to work in the field until January 2010. So, all ANs were erected in January – February 2010, a year later than proposed.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. Survey of Blakiston's fish owl breeding pairs at the rivers of SE Primorye in 2009-2010. We reported disappearance of breeding pairs and general decline in pair numbers. Pairs disappeared from the rivers Mineral'naya and Chernaya due to unclear reasons; we couldn't report a pair at known site on Vasilkovka R. According to information from Sergey Surmach (BPI RAN) a nest tree was destroyed, and a pair disappeared from Avvakumovka R. In 2010 we found only two pairs at their old places and a number of new pairs/sites were found.
2. Twenty-five ANs were built and erected along six river stretches in SE Primorye. ANs were of three types - all were 46-48 cm wide and they were:
 - round barrel 50 cm high.
 - round barrel with ruff, 110 cm high.
 - square box 50 cm high.

ANs were placed on poplars, elms and Chosenia trees at 6.5 - 10 m from the ground. We have

eight ANs on Kievka River; one AN on Krivaya River; three ANs on Chernaya River; eight ANs on Avvakumovka River; two ANs on Mineral'naya River; and three ANs on Margaritovka River. Most of ANs were erected in January 2009 - February 2010. None of them were occupied in Spring 2010 – probably the ANs were still too bright (not looking old enough) and Blakiston's fish owl pairs search for nest sites in the Autumn.

3. We conducted information and education programme on Blakiston's fish owl and other owl conservation for local people, mostly schoolchildren. We gave three lectures at school for 7-11 grades. We made a part of Schoolchildren Conference on rare vertebrates in Lazovskiy district.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Ten local people participated in the project work.

1. Kochetov Vladimir
2. Bessonov Alexandr
3. Nemerov Sergey
4. Eremin Dmitry
5. Sandalov Ivan
6. Strel'tsov Gennady
7. Strel'tsova Galina
8. Sunduov Yuri
9. Dekaluk Galina
10. Degtyarenko Olga

First six persons received per diem for their work in the field. Other people worked as volunteers. Among them we invited five volunteers from schoolchildren and two university students. A team for Blakiston's Fish Owl conservation is at the stage of creation (4 years of project) and we believe a number of people involved will increase with time.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I plan to continue the work toward conservation of Blakiston's fish owl as I am working in Lazovskiy SNR as Senior Research Scientist and my topic is Birds of Prey and Owls. Blakiston's Fish Owl is one of key owl species of concern in our area.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Results of this project will be published in a scientific paper and a series of popular articles in local issues.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Project was planned for 1 year. However, due to reasons mentioned above it took 6 months longer. Prolongation of the project allowed for one more year of pair survey and of checking of ANs.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in J sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Transportation:	1400			
Car rental (including petrol), £20 per day for 70 days	1400	1400	0	
Field equipment:	1030			
Digital voice recorder suitable for 20 Hz-20 kHz sound recording	420	654.70	234.70	
Microphone	180	195.60	15.60	
Small acoustic equipment (MP3-player, active loudspeakers)	130	0	-130	
Boards for artificial nests	300	338	38	
Field per diem:	1960			
Per diem, 2 prs, 70 days, J14 per day	1960	1960	0	
Small supply and software	95	95	0	
Bank fee, 1% from total	42 77,32	50	8	
TOTAL	4527	4693.30	36.30	Bank exchange rate is £1 = 42, 94 - 53, 66 Rub

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

I plan continuation of Blakiston's fish owl conservation work in following directions:

1. Monitoring of bird numbers and annual checking of AN for occupation.
2. Continue to record voices and to identify individuals.
3. Information and education programme for local people.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

RSGF logo was used in presentations for schoolchildren.

Appendixes

Appendix 1. Result of survey for breeding calls of Blakiston's Fish Owl, Primorye, 2009 – 2010 rr.

River basin ^A	Historical data	Results of survey, breeding pairs		Note
		2009 r.	2010 r.	
Avvakumovka	absent	2	1	
Arzamazovka	absent	no	no	
Chernaya	absent	1	no	
Mineral'naya	absent	1	no	
Kievka	Unpaired bird lived here in 2000-03	no	no	
Vasil'kovka	absent	2	1	
TOTAL		6	2	

A – Mainstream of river together with small tributaries (creaks)

Appendix 2. Locations of AN for Blakiston's Fish Owl.

River basin ^A	Height above ground, m	Tree species	
Kievka	8	poplar	
	7	elm	
	8	elm	
	10	poplar	
	6.5	Chosenia	
	7.5	poplar	
	8,5	poplar	
	9	Manjurian nut	
	Krivaya	9.5	poplar
Chernaya		7	poplar
		8,5	elm
Mineral'naya	9	poplar	
	Avvakumovka	9	poplar
		10	poplar
Avvakumovka	8	elm	
	9,5	elm	
	8	poplar	
	7,5	poplar	
	9	Chosenia	
	9	poplar	
	8	poplar	
	8,5	poplar	
	Margaritovka	9	elm
		8,5	poplar
8		poplar	

Appendix 3. Survey routes along rivers.

District	River	Survey length, km	Periods of survey
Lazovskiy	Chernaya	28	December 2008, February-March 2009 and 2010
Lazovskiy	Kievka	110	December 2008, February-March 2009 and 2010
Lazovskiy	Krivaya	42	February-March 2009 and 2010
Lazovskiy	Lazovka	36	December 2008, February-March 2009 and 2010
Ol'ginskiy	Avvakumovka	94	February-March 2009 and 2010
Ol'ginskiy	Arzamazovka	30	March 2009
Ol'ginskiy	Margaritovka	30	February-March 2009 and 2010
Ol'ginskiy	Milogradovka	45	February-March 2009 and 2010
Ol'ginskiy	Mineral'naya	25	February-March 2009 and 2010
Ol'ginskiy	Vasil'kovka	45	March 2009 and 2010
TOTAL		485	

Appendix 4. Dates of AN erecting on the rivers of SE Primorye.

District	River	# AN erected	Periods of AN erecting
Lazovskiy	Chernaya	3	February 2010
Lazovskiy	Kievka	8	December 2009 – January 2010
Lazovskiy	Krivaya	1	January 2010
Ol'ginskiy	Avvakumovka	8	February 2010
Ol'ginskiy	Mineral'naya	2	April 2009
Ol'ginskiy	Margaritovka	3	February 2010
TOTAL		25	