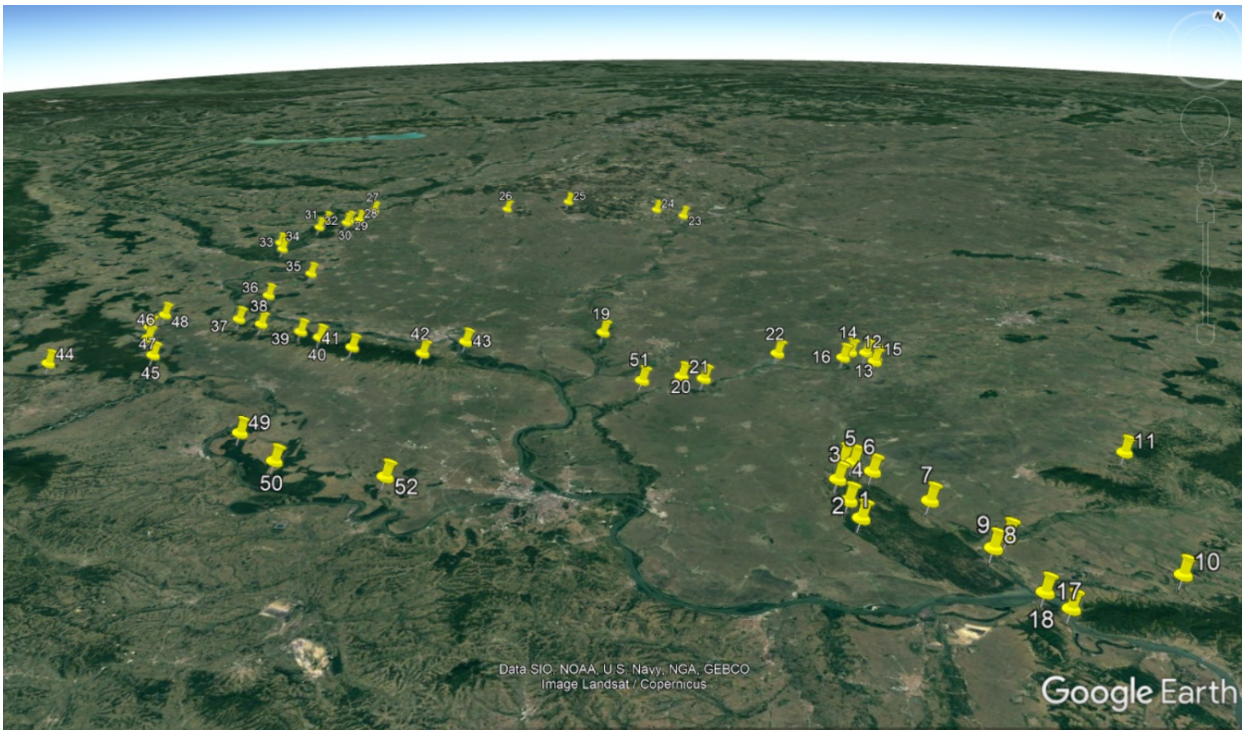
Project Update: July 2021

As our first objective during this seasons' work, and in line with the project activity timeline, we designated over 50 important areas within the Vojvodina province, which had a lower amount of previous biodiversity data available, as well as the suspected favorable habitat sites, which may have potential for eastern imperial eagle nesting. With the full picture of important survey sites in mind, we could easily decide which of the sites are of higher priority, with a goal to survey as many as possible, without sacrificing quality, with the available time and resources. In addition, the locations of all the previously set artificial nesting platforms have been among the survey priorities.



Preliminary survey locations (Source: Google Earth)

A protocol survey was also developed in order to define and streamline gathered field data for all team members. The survey records detailed information of the potential eastern imperial eagle sightings, as well as descriptive information on the site itself, the potential threats to the habitat, the available pray sightings and an assessment of habitat suitability for the eastern imperial eagle nesting. In addition, the survey records all the bird biodiversity data gathered at each particular site.

Up to this moment, 45 sites in total have been surveyed by the team, gathering valuable data that will be analysed upon the completion of field activities.

As a highlight of the project work so far, but also an all-time highlight of eastern imperial eagle conservation in Serbia, two young eagles have been marked with satellite tags, making them the first members of their species to be tracked in Serbia. The action was coordinated together with relevant national authorities (the Nature Conservation

Institute of Vojvodina Province), as well as assisted by our colleagues from the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society (MME - BirdLife Hungary). The complete known national population of fledglings was also marked with both metal and plastic coloured rings. These actions will, hopefully, pave the way for much more insight and data on the movement and behaviour of the birds, as well as improve their safety and lower the risk of human-caused mortality.

The following months will be focused on conducting the remaining field surveys, actively monitoring the active nests and starting the work on the promotional materials and activities.