

Project Update: August 2009

Ten unfledged juvenile Egyptian vultures were toxicology sampled and ringed in July and early August 2009 under project activity 2.

Blood samples were taken to study the contamination levels of heavy metals, antibiotics, pesticides and diseases. Secretions from eye, throat and cloaci were also taken for studying the prevalence of bacterial and fungal infections.

We ringed the birds with permanent plastic ring that will allow future identification in the wild. The yearly carrying out of this activity, combined with subsequent good monitoring will allow us to study the individual lifetime reproductive success, breeding territories and mate changes, immature and natal dispersal, obtain survival estimates, identify the birds during migration and wintering etc. In this way we will also gain invaluable information for the future planning and execution of the conservation measures.

The action was broadcasted on the most popular Bulgarian television: http://www.btv.bg/news/news_details.pcgi?cont_id=136125.

The participants were Ivaylo Angelov, Vladimir Dobrev, Dobromir Dobrev, Volen Arkumarev, Tsvetomira Yotsova and Nikolay Terziev.



Left: Taking of toxicology sample from the throat. ©Ivaylo Angelov. Right: Taking down the chick from the nest. ©Tsvetomira Yotsova.