

Project Update: March 2006

1 November 2004

Project team succeeded for the first time in Bulgaria to "move" two pairs to nest in safer place. Last year they failed in breeding due to disturbance.

We put some materials in the nest and this way "forced" the birds to build new nests or to occupy some of the spare ones. This method is known abroad but has been used for the first time in Bulgaria. It turns to be successful and now both pairs have chicks. One of the pairs has had chicks for the first time for the last 7 years.

Another important activity is nest guarding. BSPB volunteers have been guarding 3 nests since March. One of them was robbed last year. The volunteer succeeded to establish very good contacts with local people. They admitted that last year a boy took the eggs and broke them. The year before last year local kids took the eggs also in order to paint them as Easter's eggs! This year the pair successfully hatched and raised a chick.

There were problems as well. In 2004 an adult bird and a fledgling were poisoned by phosphor-organic pesticides, but the source remained unknown.

10 December 2005

Conservation measures such as nest guarding, moving of pairs and work with local people have brought results. The breeding successes of the national population in 2005 have been recording for the last seven years.

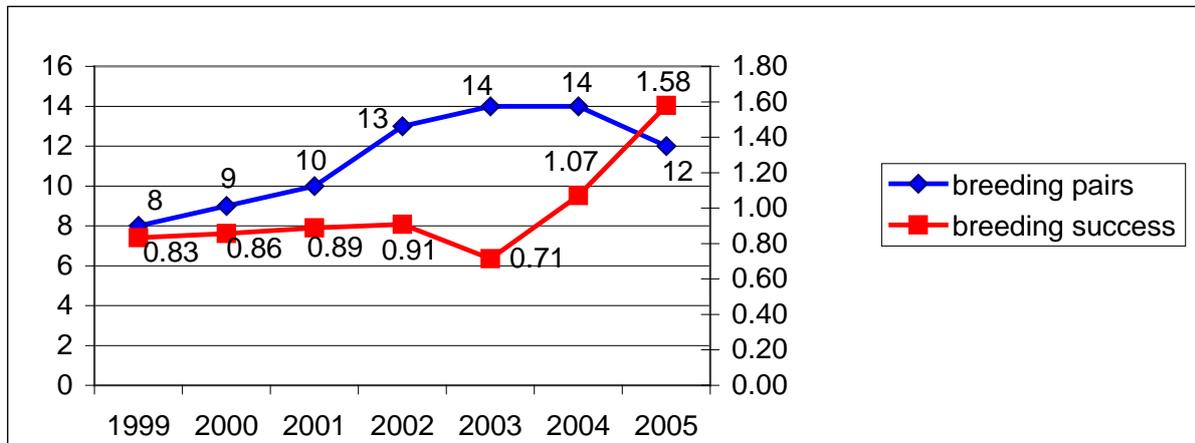
New challenges have appeared with the extension of the activities. In 2005 a decrease in the number of the breeding pairs has been recorded. Two pairs disappeared (one of them was poisoned last year) and two more territories remained occupied by single birds, while only one young pair was established, and one single bird found an immature mate.

BSPB team opposed to the plans for building a dam that would flood important habitats including one Imperial eagle nests. We collected signs from the local people against the dam. Official letter of protest was sent to the ministry of Environment and Water. As a result, the Ministry banned all the construction activities in the area that should be declared NATURA 2000 site as well.

Proposal for establishment of a new protected area (IV category of IUCN) was prepared and sent to the Ministry of Environment and Water. Official commission of representatives of the local stakeholders was held in accordance with Bulgarian Protected areas Act. Designation documentation has been prepared. It is expected that it will be signed soon by the Minister and published.

A study on power line network in Imperial eagle habitats discovered that large parts of the poles are dangers for birds. The mortality on the lines with most dangerous poles was 1,58

birds per kilometre for 4 months. Although no dead Imperial eagles have been found this seems to be a potential threat that needs to work on.



Breeding success of the Bulgarian population – fledglings per occupied nest

4 March 2006

A poster on Imperial Eagle was published with the support of The Eric Hosking Trust. Good news came from the field. Dimitar Demerdjiev, member of the project team, discovered a new Imperial eagle nest about 15 km from a previously known one. It is a young pair - one of the birds is 3 years old and the other is probably 5. In Sredna Gora mountains a pair was confirmed in the territory where last year only one bird was seen.

