

This bulletin serves for information dissemination among public, members and friends of BSPSV about "Safe nests for White Storks" project. It is available in English and Serbian languages.

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Safe nests for White Storks

Even a little child knows White Stork. Why we are so familiar with this noble bird? The first data about White Stork in Pannonian plane are from 13th century, when first larger human settlements near wetlands have been formed. Storks stayed loyal to humans until nowadays, and, therefore, local people appreciate it. White Stork is perseverer bird, symbolizing fertility, welfare and faithfulness.

Having that in mind, its choice for the symbol of The Bird Protection and Study Society of Vojvodina was logical. After three projects which we have implemented in order to find out as more facts as possible on its population size and conservation needs in Vojvodina, this one is concentrated on concrete action which will help it to solve problems it is faced with in its heavily modified, but still attractive habitats in Vojvodina.

Jozsef Gergely

president of The Bird Protection and Study Society of Vojvodina

The aim of this project is to use White Stork as a flagship species to promote nature conservation. As a migrant, linked to wetlands and meadows, this well known bird is an excellent species to educate a large public. Electrocution poses very serious threat in its life cycle, and the main cause of mortality of young storks. The nests and adult birds are in many cases seen as an unnecessary obstacle to electricity distribution as they accidentally are the reason of power cuts.

I hope that this project will be the start of a long term conservation of the White Stork by the electricity company "Elektro-vojvodina", supported by the local people. It will certainly lead to close co-operation between Serbia and Montenegro and neighbouring countries as Hungary and Romania who try to tackle the same problems.

Wilem van den Bossche,

co-chair of the Specialist group of IUCN-
Wetlands International on Storks, Ibises and
Spoonbills



Excercise prior to the first flight can fe fatal:
nest in Orlovat, one of project villages

CAUTION: ELECTROCUTION

In many countries around the world the widespread availability of electricity has become common and is now considered essential to our standard of living. In particular, above – ground power lines have continued to increase in number and area covered. What has at first sight proved to be a benefit to mankind, is turning out to be a threat to wild animals, an issue that has received too little attention in the past. Depending on the type of construction used, power lines may cause fatal injuries to birds. This is particularly true for large birds such as storks and raptors.

Recent figures, compiled by NABU experts in Central and Eastern European

countries, show how great the risk of bird electrocution is. Looking at Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia, we find as many as 42 bird species listed in the Appendices I and II of the Bonn Convention and threatened due to power poles that yet have to be retrofitted.

The text is taken from brochure »Caution: electrocution!« published by NABU, Germany





Platform erection on electric pylon
(Photo: Peter Lovaszi)

The White Stork is a very special bird. It is probably one of the most popular and investigated birds in Europe. Since it nests mostly in human settlements, it is easy to observe and follow the events in the nest even by children, which is not the case with majority of other birds. As such, White Stork is widely known in most countries, most people like it and spontaneously protect it and its nests. However, during the last years, more and more nests are placed on electric pylons. Here, collisions with tension wires and electrocution are more common. Young storks especially appear sensible to such accidents during

their first flights. To avoid this problem, artificial nest structures should be installed on electric poles. This is widely use solution in countries where White Storks nest. Such project started recently in Vojvodina, northern province of Serbia, initiated by The Bird Protection and Study Society of Vojvodina, and it is expected that it will bring useful results for both, people and birds.

Milan Vogrin

**Society for Bird Research
and Nature Protection, Rače, Slovenia**

Who? Bird Protection and Study Society of Vojvodina (BSPSV)

What? »Safe nests for White Storks« project

Why? In order to permanently prevent electrocution of young and adult White Storks on their nests

How? By setting up the nests on special platforms which will be fixed to the tops of electro pylons

When? Immediately prior to stork arrival from their wintering grounds, in spring 2005

Where? In Botoš, Orlovat, Neuzina, Taraš and Tomaševac – villages in central Banat (northern Serbia) in which electrocution of storks and problems with electrodistribution most frequently occurs, since they support large number of nests on electro pylons

Who will help? »Elektovojvodina« Public Enterprise

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