

BIRD MONITORING REPORT – PARAVANI TRANSMISSION LINE

September 2015

The survey was carried out in September 25-27, 2015. (Note: some of the sections were checked also during the site visit carried out end of August- early September.)

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Objective of the survey:

- Registration of local and migrant species (spring migration) encountered.
- Registration of birds (bird mortality, injury) caused by collision with OTL or electrocution

Date:	Weather conditions:	Visibility:	Temperature
end of August – early September	Sunny with cloudy periods	Good	27-30C
September 25-27	Fair, with variable clouds	Good	32-34C

Migration activity because of the weather was low. Eurasian crag martins (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) sparrows and European bee-eaters (*Merops apiasret*) flocks (Figure 1) several buzzards were registered. Therefore decision was made to do a survey closer to the end of September.



Figure 1. European bee-eaters (*Merops apiasret*) flock

All sections where the landform allowed were checked. The width of the studied strip was 50m on each side of the centreline, except for the section between the towers the towers 26, 28, 70 and 75 where the surveyed strip was 100m (each side of the centreline) wide. (Figure 2a and Figure 2b) Coordinates of the towers are given in Annex 1. The river and gully crossings and crests of the range were most carefully inspected.

These areas are considered as more 'risky', besides, generally, both spring and autumn migration in these sections uses to be better expressed.

During the survey carried out between September 25 and 27, the number of migrant species was not high, but exceeding that registered during the previous (end of August – early September) site survey. Particular activity was registered in the Paravani crossing and the plateau near village Khizavavra (Figure 3). In the Paravani section flock of Eurasian crag martins moving high above the ground, towards the Mtkvari ravine was observed. Migration of other species of swallows and bee-eaters that uses to start in August was already over.

Observation revealed several flocks of the Black kites (*Milvus migrans*) (see Figure 4). The size of the flocks was from 12-15 to 60-70.

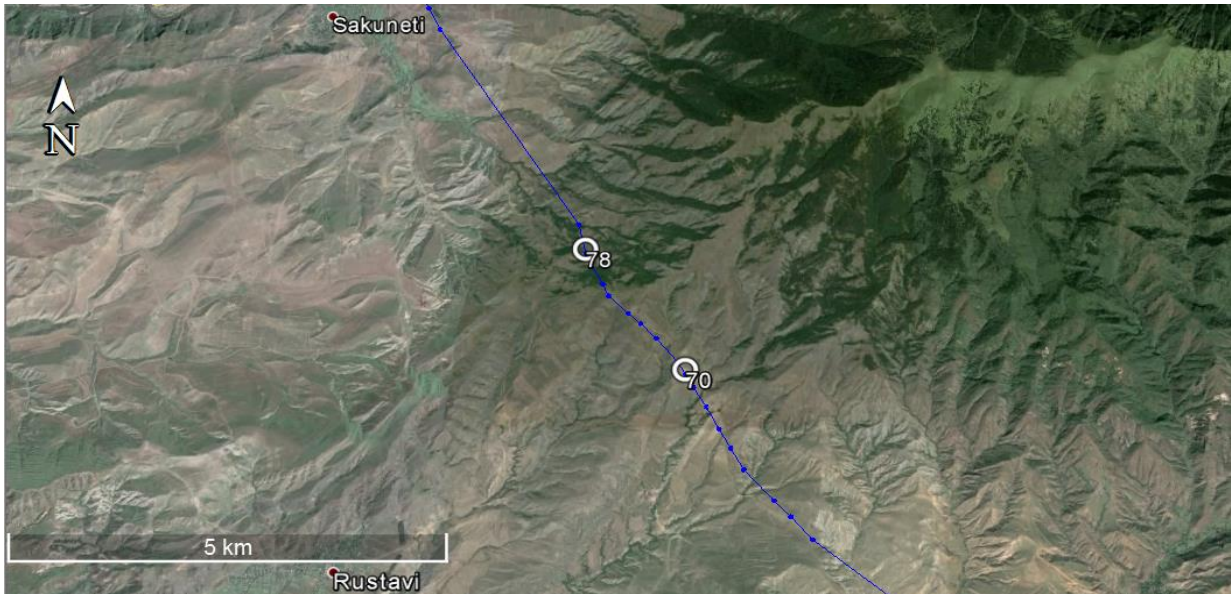


Figure 2a

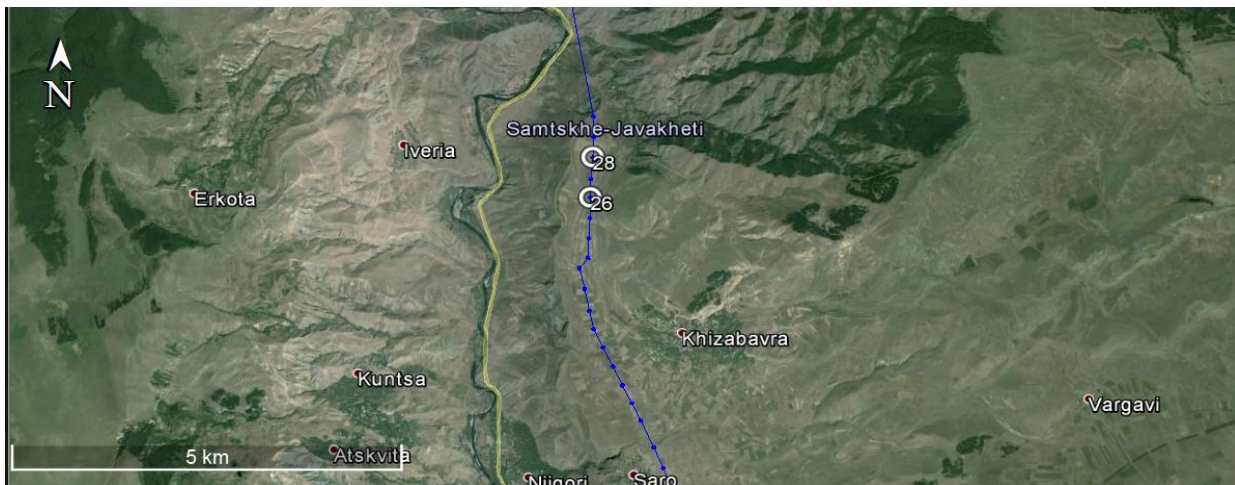


Figure 2b

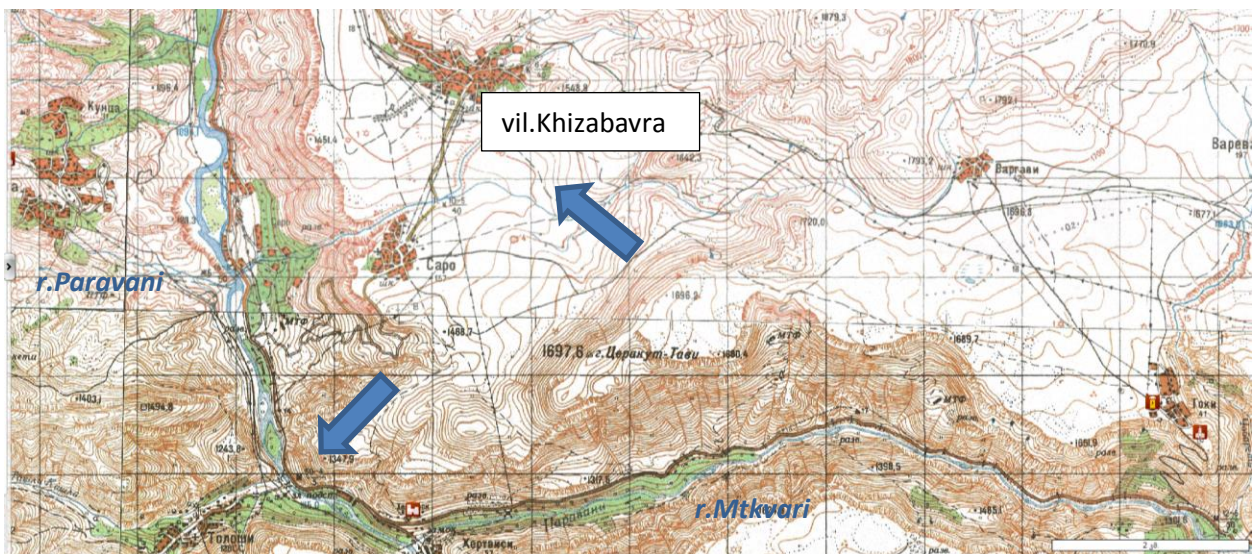


Figure 3



Figure 4. Black kite (*Milvus migrans*) flock

The lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) and Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) (Figure 5) fly at comparatively lower height. Kestrels and Common buzzards (*Buteo rufinus*) use to perch on high trees and/or transmission line towers (Figure 6).

Between the towers 4 and 5, Paravani river gorge, several Long-legged buzzards (*Buteo rufinus*) were registered (Figure 7).

Besides, during observation within the TL corridor the following species have been registered:

- two small flocks of Purple herons (*Ardea purpurea*) (Figure 8.),
- Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*),
- White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) (Figure 9),
- Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*),
- Booted eagle (*Aquila pennata*),
- European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) (Figure 10),
- Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*).

Identification of small perching birds (*Passeriformes*) was not feasible because of the distance. In several locations above the Paravani and Mtkvari rivers flocks of Armenian gull (*Larus armenicus*) were observed (Figure 11). The latter were moving from Javakheti plateau along the river gorge towards the Kartli lowland where they use to winter.

The full list of species registered during the survey with indication of the status of protection is given an Annex 2.

During the survey the strip along the 80% of the line was controlled, some sections were not accessible because of steepness (see Annex 1).

No cases of bird collision or injury caused by the OTL were registered during the survey.

Conclusion:

- No cases of bird collision or injury caused by the OTL were registered during the survey.
- No specific corrective action is required.



Figure 5. Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) registered in TL corridor



Figure 6. Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) perching on TL tower

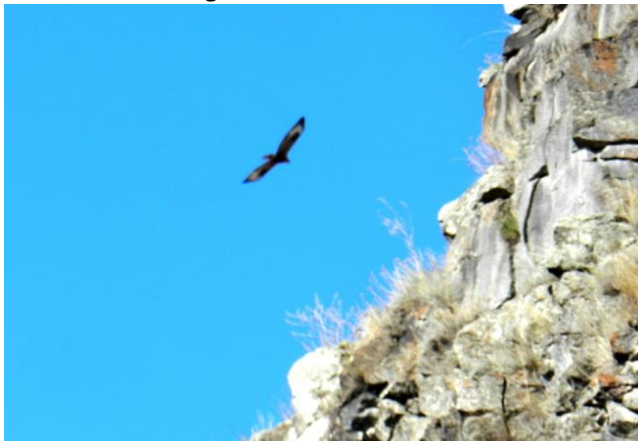


Figure 7. Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) above the Paravani gorge

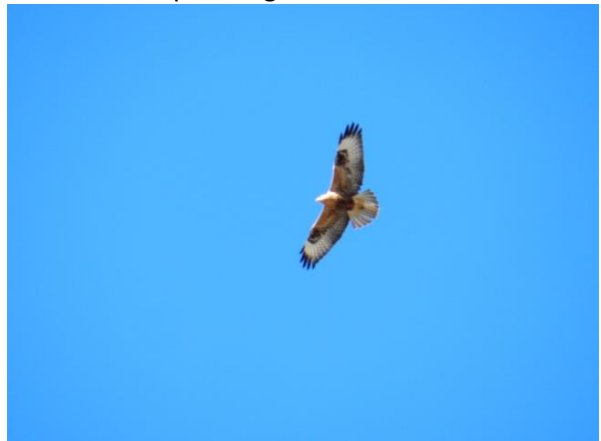


Figure 8. Purple herons (*Ardea purpurea*).



Figure 9. White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)



Figure 10. European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)



Figure 11. Eurasian hobby (*Larus armenicus*).

Annex 1



Key

Sections not visited because of poor accessibility are marked with white ellipses

Coordinates of the towers

Points	X	Y	Tower N
1	344173	4619289	103
2	344347	4619102	102
3	344482	4618944	101
4	344647	4618766	100
5	344818	4618569	99
6	345058	4618394	98
7	345266	4618303	97
8	345362	4617987	96
9	345399	4617705	95
10	345464	4617407	94
11	345401	4617250	93
12	345339	4617053	92
13	345471	4616807	91
14	345615	4616515	90
15	347333	4613855	79
16	347418	4613475	78
17	347618	4613076	76
18	347691	4612924	75
19	347921	4612697	74
20	348067	4612563	73
21	348250	4612371	72
22	348499	4612068	71
23	348589	4611915	70
24	348680	4611746	69
25	348828	4611500	68
26	348973	4611224	67
27	349103	4610987	66
28	349251	4610720	65
29	349592	4610336	64
30	349781	4610139	63
31	350022	4609860	62
32	355890	4604048	61
33	356009	4603933	60
34	356117	4603828	59
35	356147	4601704	58
36	351501	4608660	57
37	351789	4608502	56
38	351914	4608404	55
39	352073	4608284	54
40	352431	4608009	53
41	262547	4607881	52
42	352733	4607677	51

Points	X	Y	Tower N
43	352899	4607498	50
44	353327	4607026	49
45	353405	4606949	48
46	353618	4606863	47
47	353849	4606675	46
48	354357	4606254	45
49	354620	4606074	44
50	354901	4605862	43
51	355216	4604802	41
52	355499	4604899	40
53	355565	4604738	39
54	355675	4604457	38
55	356200	4601198	30
56	356196	4600914	29
57	356182	4600634	28
58	356149	4600334	27
59	356143	4600081	26
60	356131	4599803	25
61	356615	4599536	24
62	356097	4599260	23
63	355986	4599119	22
64	346044	4598833	21
65	356099	4598535	20
66	356147	4598279	19
67	356261	4598029	18
68	356384	4597766	17
69	356499	4597505	16
70	356615	3497255	15
71	356724	4597019	14
72	356884	4596644	13
73	356999	4596361	12
74	357107	4596071	11
75	357204	4595800	10
76	357005	4595525	9
77	357408	4595258	8
78	357532	4594920	7
79	357609	4594702	6
80	357676	4594520	5
81	357782	4594232	4

Annex 2 _List of birds registered during the site survey and their status of protection

Name in Georgian	Name in English	Latin name	Status
კვირიონი	European bee-eater	<i>Merops apiasret</i>	-
კლდის მერცხალი	Eurasian crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	IUCN_LC
მერა	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	IUCN_LC
ველის კირკიტა	Lesser kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	IUCN_LC, Red list_CR
ჩვეულებრივი კირკიტა	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	IUCN_LC
კაკაჩა	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	IUCN_LC
ველის კაკაჩა	Long-legged buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	IUCN_LC, Red list_VU
წითური ყანჩა	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	IUCN_LC
ყარყატი	Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	IUCN_LC, Red list_VU
ლაკლავი	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	IUCN_LC
ფასკუნჯი	Egyptian vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	IUCN_EN, Red list_VU
ჩია არწივი	Booted eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	-
კრაზანაჭამია	European honey buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	IUCN_LC
მარჯანი	Eurasian hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	IUCN_LC
სომხური თოლია	Armenian gull	<i>Larus armenicus</i>	IUCN_NT

LC - Least Concern; VU - Vulnerable; CR – Critical