Nowadays Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysae-otos) inhabits mountainous and foothill parts of Altai Kray of Russia. Previously this species breeds in woodlands that grow on Altai plains as well. However, in the last 12 years, it disappeared from the lowlands due to massive deforestation and related high level of human disturbances.

Breeding of this species is ascertained for the following districts of Altai Kray: Tretyakovskiy, Zmeinogorskiy, Shipunovskiy, Krasnoschekovskiy, Charyshskiy, Ust-Kalmanskiy, Petropavlovskiy, Soloneshenskiy, Altaiskiy, Sovetskiy. Most probably Golden Eagle breeds on Salair Ridge and its foothills but we still do not have reliable proofs – Altai part of Salair is very poorly studied by raptor specialists. In the neighboring regions – Novosibirsk and Kemerovo there are known facts of Golden Eagle breeding on Salair Ridge (Karyakin et al., 2005).

Until 2005 Golden Eagles were often seen at huge marshy areas in pine forests. Six breeding sites were known in such habitat, and the total number estimated as 52–61 breeding pairs (Karyakin et al., 2005). By 2008, three more breeding sites in pine forests were found (Karyakin, Nikolenko, 2015), but 4 previously known sites ceased to exist. The last attempt of Golden Eagle to nest in a pine forest (in Kornilovskiy wildlife sanctuary) was registered in 2013 (Karyakin, Nikolenko, 2015). However, there is still a probability that Golden Eagle breeds in pine forests of Altai Kray until nowadays since on August 8 of 2014 a fledgling of Golden
Golden Eagle was encountered in Egoryevskiy District between villages Srosty and Titivovka (Kakoshkina T.V., personal communication) and on August of 2017 an observation of juvenile and adult birds in Aleusskaya strand of Altai stripe-shaped pine forest occurred. In Altai foothills a population of Golden Eagle regarding stable and safe mostly because of the absence of such a destructive factor as industrial lumbering. Nowadays about 70 breeding sites of Golden Eagle are known in Altai Kray. Concerning the rapid decline of this species in pine forests, we note its whole population as declining and assess the future trends as negative across the Altai Kray. Therefore, Golden Eagle was included in the last edition of the Red Data Book of endangered species of Altai Kray (2016) listed with index II – decreasing. Isolating of strictly protected areas within wildlife sanctuaries and around former and existing breeding territories of Golden Eagle could probably facilitate the species to return in the pine forests for breeding and restore its number.

Golden Eagle is a resident species in Altai Kray that could make seasonal movements within the breeding habitat. Most probably seasonal movements are most characteristic for young birds that haven’t breed yet. In Altai Kray, Golden Eagle starts its breeding season at least one month earlier than other eagle species – at the end of February – beginning of March. A nest could be located on cliffs or on trees. In mountainous part of the region, it often took nests of tree-breeding Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca). In the wooden part, such cases are unknown but not ruled out. A clutch has 1 or 2 eggs, rarely 3. Incubating lasts for 42–45 days and nestlings remain in the nest for 65–70 days after hatching (Karyakin et al., 2010). The main diet of Golden Eagle in Altai Kray consists of the heaviest rodent species (Siberian Zokor – Myospalax myospalax, Sus – Spermophilus sp., European Hamster – Cricetus cricetus) and Corvidae, and only during winter when rodents and Corvidae become scarce it preys on hairs and different bird species.

The main threats for the Golden Eagle in Altai Kray are: lumbering; pollution of ecosystem (pesticides, heavy metals and others); death from electrocution and collapsing with wires on power-lines; geological exploration and mining; poaching; human disturbing during a breeding season that often cause death of clutches or young nestlings; shortage of nesting sites;
цокор — *Myospalax myospalax*, суслики — *Spermophilus sp.*, хомяк — *Cricetus cricetus* и врановых птиц (*Corvidae*), и лишь зимой, когда они малодоступны, вынужден охотиться на зайцев (*Lepus sp.*) и разных птиц.

Основные угрозы популяции беркута в Алтайском крае: рубки леса, в том числе все виши выборочных рубок; полифакторное загрязнение экосистем токсициантами (пестицидаами, тяжелыми металлами и пр.); гибель на бетонных опорах ЛЭП со штыревыми изоляторами, а также от столкновения с проводами высоковольтных ЛЭП; геологоразведочные работы и разработка полезных ископаемых; браконьерский отстрел; беспокоиство людьми птиц на гнездах, что нередко приводит к гибели кладок или маленьких птенцов; лимит гнездопригодных скал и деревьев.

Необходимыми мерами по сохранению популяции этого орла в крае мы считаем расширение территории Тигирекского заповедника за счет земель Чарышского района; выделение в ленточно-боровых и прибско-боровых заказниках зон особой охраны; организацию особо защитных участков лесов в местах обитания, в том числе возможного; оборудование ЛЭП птицеошпицами устройствами или изолированным проводом; ограничение применения пестицидов, свинца и других токсициантов; просветительскую работу с населением для предотвращения фактора беспокоиства; сооружение искусственных гнездовий (гнездовых платформ).

From our point of view, the following activities are required to protect Golden Eagle in Altai Kray: expansion of Tigirek Nature Reserve into lands of Charyshsky district; isolating of strictly protected areas maintaining stripe-shaped pine forests and riverside pine forests within the borders of wildlife sanctuaries; establishing a strictly protected areas around existing breeding territories and potential breeding sites; equipping power-lines with bird-protection devices or re-equipping with isolated wires; restriction of the use of pesticides, lead and other toxicants; preventing human disturbing via ecological education; mounting artificial breeding platforms.

Слёток беркута (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Алтайский край, 18.07.2015. Фото И. Карякина.