The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide professional association representing the railway sector and promoting rail transport. UIC leads an innovative and dynamic sector, helping our members find opportunities and build success. The purpose of UIC's Ecological Effects of Railways on Wildlife (rEvERsE) project is to understand railway's role in the loss and gain of biodiversity and its habitats in Europe. It will seek to set out how railways can manage land in an ecologically sensitive way, providing solutions and best practice examples.

ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF RAILWAYS ON WILDLIFE
REVERSE

UIC is seeking solutions and best practice to manage rail lineside in a way that can help **halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity**.

This poster provides information about Theme 2:
Proactive management of habitat for rare or protected species

GERMANY

A pair of peregrine falcons repeatedly tried to breed on the bridge pier of an ICE line belonging to Deutsche Bahn AG

SOLUTION

Due to the exposed location, all attempts were unsuccessful. There was a great willingness of employees on site to support the peregrine falcons, a protected and iconic species, in their efforts to build a nest. The required solution had to fulfil several demands. The technical and operational issues, such as inspection of the bridge pillar at any time of the year, should not conflict with the legal requirements of not disturbing the birds' breeding. During numerous discussions between railway engineers and experts from a nature conservation association, all requirements were weighed up against each other. As a result, the inspection schedules were adjusted so that they were outside the breeding season and, in the case that a spontaneous inspection would become necessary during the breeding season, this should be feasible in consultation with the experts of the nature conservation association.

Outcomes

A nesting platform was installed on the bridge pillar head and since then the peregrine falcons have bred there successfully several times

Keywords: Falcon, Nesting, Inspection

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