



The status of the European Roller in Bulgaria



© Svetoslav Spasov
www.NatureImages.eu



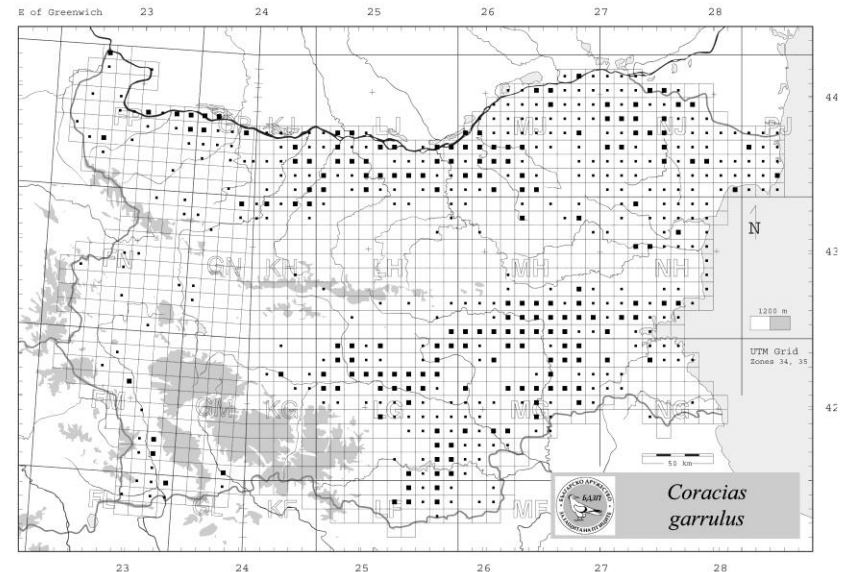
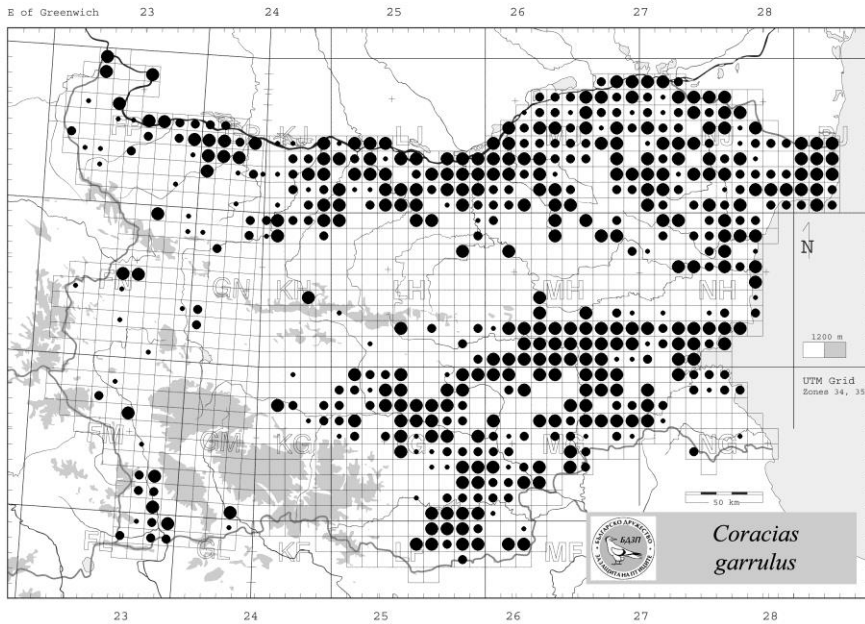
**Petar Iankov, Bulgarian Society for the
Protection of Birds – BirdLife Bulgaria**





Do you have breeding rollers in your country? If not, please specify the year of the last breeding activity.

Yes. Distribution and numbers of the breeding population in Bulgaria (1990-2005) is shown on the maps (Iankov, P. (ed.) 2007. *Atlas of the Breeding Birds in Bulgaria. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10. Sofia, BSPB, 679 pp.*).





Range states	Breeding	Migration	Wintering
Albania	yes	No	no
Armenia	yes	No	no
Austria	yes	Yes	no
Azerbaijan	yes	No	no
Belarus	yes	No	no
Bosnia and Herzegovina	yes	No	no
Bulgaria	yes	Yes	no
Croatia	yes	No	no
Cyprus	yes	Yes	no
Czech Republic	extinct	No	no
Estonia	extinct	No	no
France	yes	Yes	no
Georgia	yes	No	no
Greece	yes	Yes	no
Hungary	yes	Yes	no
Italy	yes	No	no
Latvia	yes	Yes	no
Lithuania	yes	No	no
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of	yes	No	no
Montenegro	yes	No	no
Moldova	yes	Yes	no
Poland	yes	Yes	no
Portugal	yes	Yes	no
Romania	yes	Yes	no
Russia (European)	yes	No	no
Serbia	yes	Yes	no
Slovakia	yes	Yes	no
Slovenia	extinct	No	no
Spain	yes	Yes	no
Turkey	yes	Yes	no
Ukraine	yes	Yes	no

Please check the table on the left, and update the information if necessary.

No update needed for Bulgaria.

Table 1. European range states of the European Roller. Member states of the EU in bold (BirdLife International 2008).





Country	Breeding pairs.	Quality	Year(s) of the latest estimate	Breeding Population trend in the last 15 years (= 3 generations)	Quality
Albania	10-50	M	2002	decline	P
Armenia	300-650	M	2000-2002	stable	M
Austria	10-18	G	2001-2008	stable	G
Azerbaijan	1000-5000	P	1996-2000	stable	P
Belarus	20-50	M	2008	large decline	M
Bulgaria	2500-5500	M	1990-2005	small increase	M
Croatia	0-5	M	2002	large decline	P
Cyprus	2000-4000	P	1994-2000	small increase	P
Czech Republic	0	G	2000	extinct	
Estonia	1-5	G	2003-2007	moderate decline	M
France	800-1000	M	2007	moderate increase	M
Georgia	present				
Greece	200-300	P	1995-2000	small decline	P
Hungary	1000	G	2007	stable	G
Italy	300-400	P	2003	stable	P
Latvia	20-30	G	2005	large decline	M
Lithuania	35-50	G	2007	large decline	G
Macedonia, the Former Republic of Yugoslav	300-1000	P		moderate decline	P
Moldova	50-80	M		large decline	P
Poland	60-80	G	2007	moderate decline	M
Portugal	80-150	M	2001-2005	moderate decline	P
Romania	4600-6500	P	2002	small decline	P
Russia (European)	6000-6500	P	1990-2000	moderate decline	M
Serbia	70-120	M	2007-2008	small increase	M
Slovakia	1-20	P	2008	large decline	P
Slovenia	0	M	2008	possibly extinct	M
Spain	2000-6000	M	2006	moderate decline	P
Turkey	30 000-60 000	P	2001	moderate decline	P
Ukraine	4000-5000	M	1990-2000	large decline	G
Total EU (27)	13,000 – 25,000			decline	
Total Europe	55 000 – 117 000			decline	

Population size and trend between 2000-2016 in your country. Please check and update the table if necessary.

For the period mentioned in the table correction needed: Bulgaria – 2500-5500 pairs; The numbers for the period 2000-2016 has not been estimated. Informed guess about the figure is 2500-4000 pairs (some decline suggested).

There will be better estimation after completing the BSPB work on the European Atlas in 2017.

Population size and trend by country (BirdLife International 2008).

Notes: G – Good; M – Medium; P – Poor.



What are the main threats for rollers in your country?

No specific studies, informed guess

- Please list in the order of critical, high, medium.

Critical - a factor causing or likely to cause very rapid declines and/or extinction;

Cr1. Increasing habitat homogeneity (loss of field margins and increased field size);

Cr2. Intensification of crop management, especially use of pesticides (loss of prey);

Cr3. Conversion of permanent grassland to other land use (loss of both habitat and food);

High - a factor causing or likely to cause rapid decline leading to depletion;

H1. Clearing of riverbank trees and riparian forests;

H2. Clearing the solitary trees and groups of trees in open lowland habitats;

Medium - a factor causing or likely to cause relatively slow but significant declines.

M1. Lack of nesting sites in the lowland open habitats;

M2. Roadkills;

- Please list any long term threats that have no solution yet? **Cr1., Cr2., Cr3., H2., M2.**
- Please list any threats that started fairly recently? **Cr1., Cr3.**
- Please list any threats that have been solved/or gotten better since the last ISAP (2008). **M1.**





Have there been any changes in your country regarding the policies and legislations relevant to the management of the species? What percentage of the breeding territories are protected?

- No significant changes regarding the policies and legislation relevant to the management of the species, BUT: 1) designation of protected areas under the national legislation virtually halted, and 2) process of development and implementation of Management Plans for the SPAs virtually not started yet;
- About 25-30% of the breeding territories are protected, mainly as SPAs.





What is the main goal in your country regarding the roller population?

- Halting the probable (slight?, moderate?) decline and stabilizing the breeding population (short-term);
- Increasing the breeding population and downlist the species from the National Red Data Book.





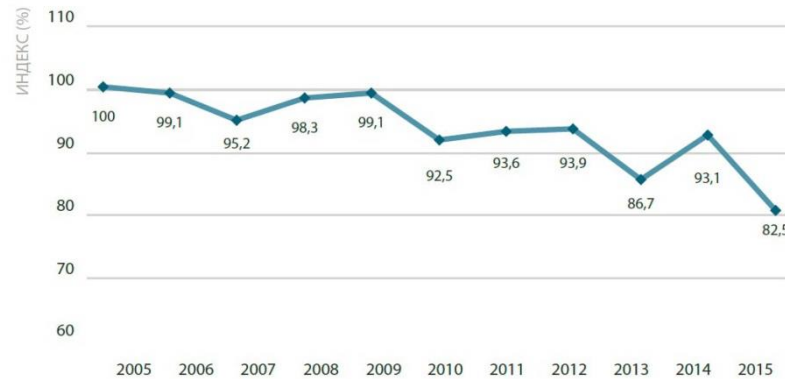
Please list the recent conservation activities (national species action plans, monitoring programmes, habitat restorations, research programmes) that are relevant to the species within your country.

- Virtually no recent direct conservation activities for the species;
- Exception – very limited nest box scheme (BSPB);
- A number of indirect measures, mainly on habitat level (see below on slide 11).





Please list any new scientific findings that could affect the conservation of the species.



The overall trend of the index of the birds in agriculture lands is negative: -13% during 2005-2014, and -18% during 2005-2015 (Hristov, I. 2015. *Common birds in Bulgaria: trends for the period 2005 – 2015. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 32, BSPB, Sofia, 29 pp.*) (No specific data about the Roller in the results of the CBM scheme in Bulgaria).



Please explain your monitoring methods.

- **Standard CBM scheme methods** (Hristov, I. 2015. *Common birds in Bulgaria: trends for the period 2005 – 2015. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 32, BSPB, Sofia, 29 pp.*);
- **Checking known nest locations during the monitoring of some IBAs.**



Please list all the goals and actions from the last ISAP (2008) that are now considered complete.

You can use the tables on pages 20-26 of the 2008 ISAP as a baseline:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/docs/coracias_garrulus_garrulus.pdf

- 1.1.2 Legally protect under national and/or international (e.g. Natura 2000) legislation the priority areas;
- 1.2.3. Define priority areas for Roller conservation;
- 2.1.1 Promote habitat heterogeneity through e.g. agro environmental schemes; (partly)
- 2.1.2 Promote legal restrictions to prevent the conversion of permanent grasslands to other land use; (partly)
- 2.1.3 Promote grazing livestock practices and hay mowing on meadows and grasslands by increasing the economic viability of livestock farming in high priority Roller areas through agro-environmental schemes or other rural development measures; (in some IBAs)
- 2.1.9 Ensure that cross-compliance requirements are strictly adhered to; especially avoid afforestation of pastures and other permanent grasslands; (partly)
- 2.2.1 Ensure that old cavity trees are not cut by forestry operations; (at initial stage)
- 2.2.2 Conserve riverbank trees and riparian forests as protected habitat types and features of the landscape; (at initial stage)
- 2.2.6 Install nest boxes including in areas with healthy populations but with likely shortage of nest sites. (at initial stage)



Please list new objectives that should be incorporated in the new ISAP.

- Clarify and monitor the current population status and trend of the species (in Bulgaria);
- Improve the current subsidies scheme of the EU CAP concerning mechanisms, leading to mass scale ploughing up the grassland lands and destruction of the Roller habitat in Bulgaria;
- Improve the current EU policies and mechanisms concerning pesticide use;
- Use EU mechanisms to increase heterogeneity in Roller habitats (in Bulgaria).



Thank you!

