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# The status of the European Roller in Hungary

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Kecskemét

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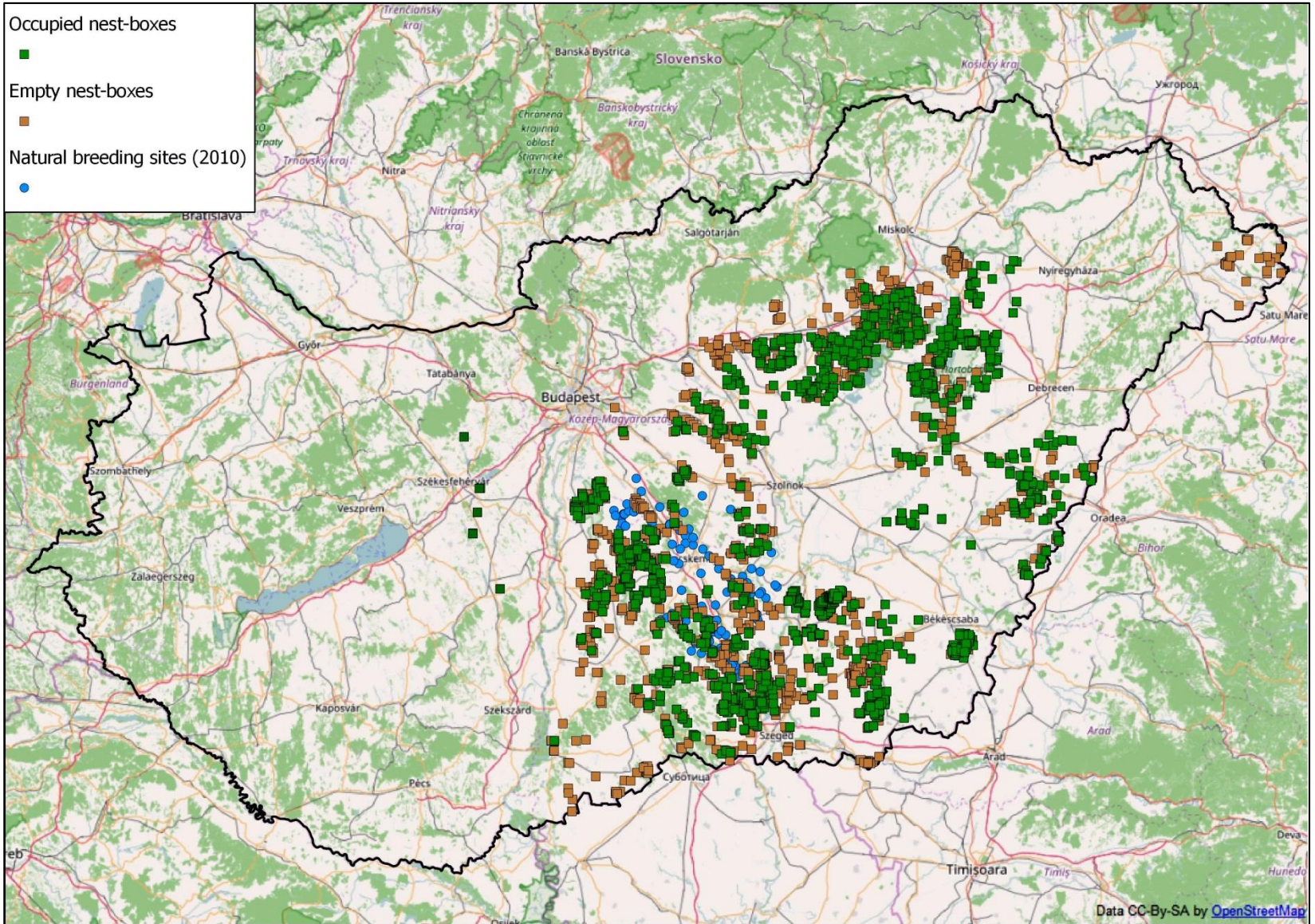
# The European Roller in Hungary



| 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 |

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

- Breeding: regular breeder
- Migration: flocks are observed in August
- Wintering: no

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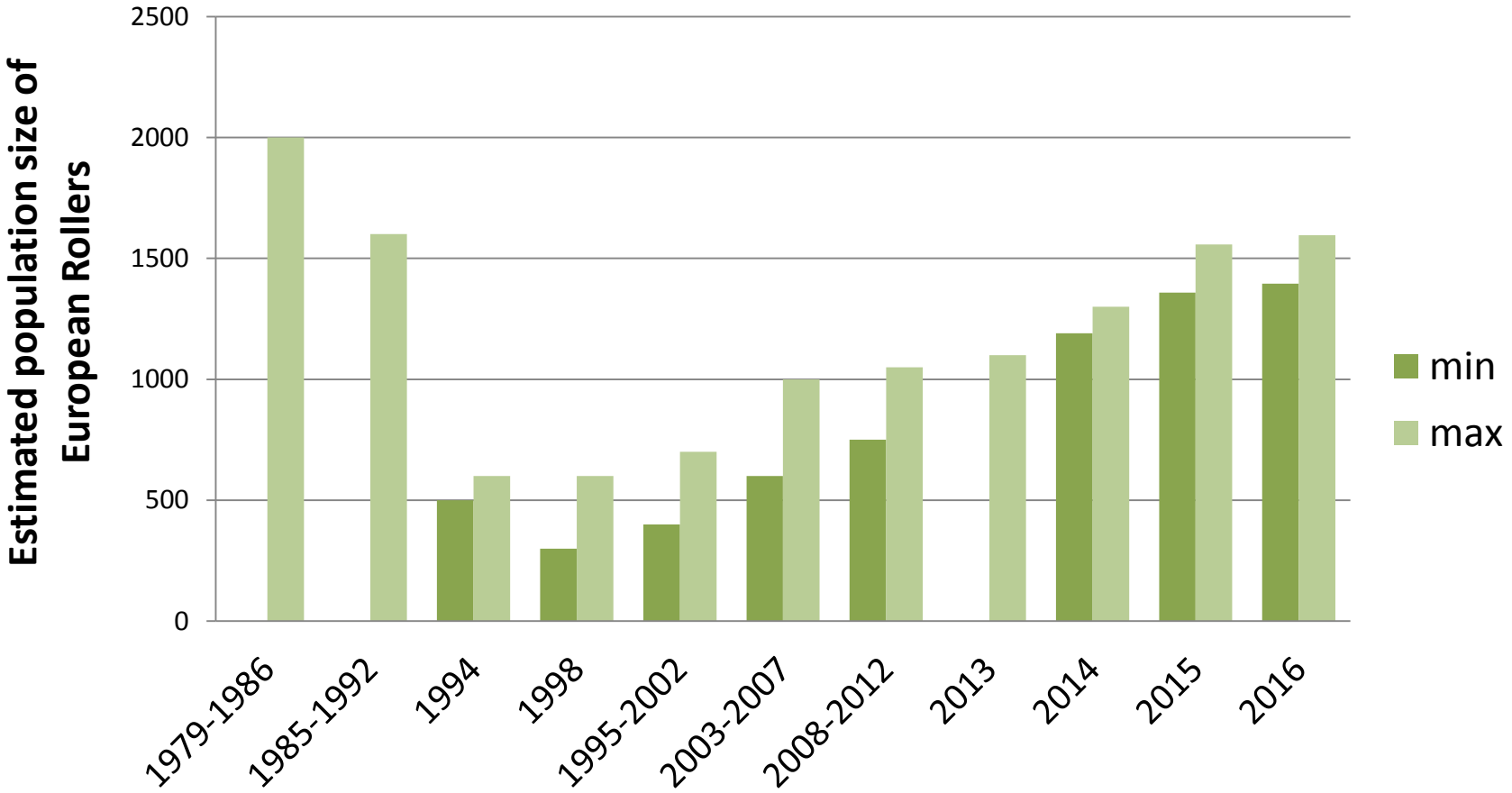
## Population size and trend between 2000-2016 in Hungary.

Number of breeding pairs: 1350-1600
Breeding Population trend in the last 15 years : increasing
Quality of estimation: good



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# The main threats for rollers in Hungary

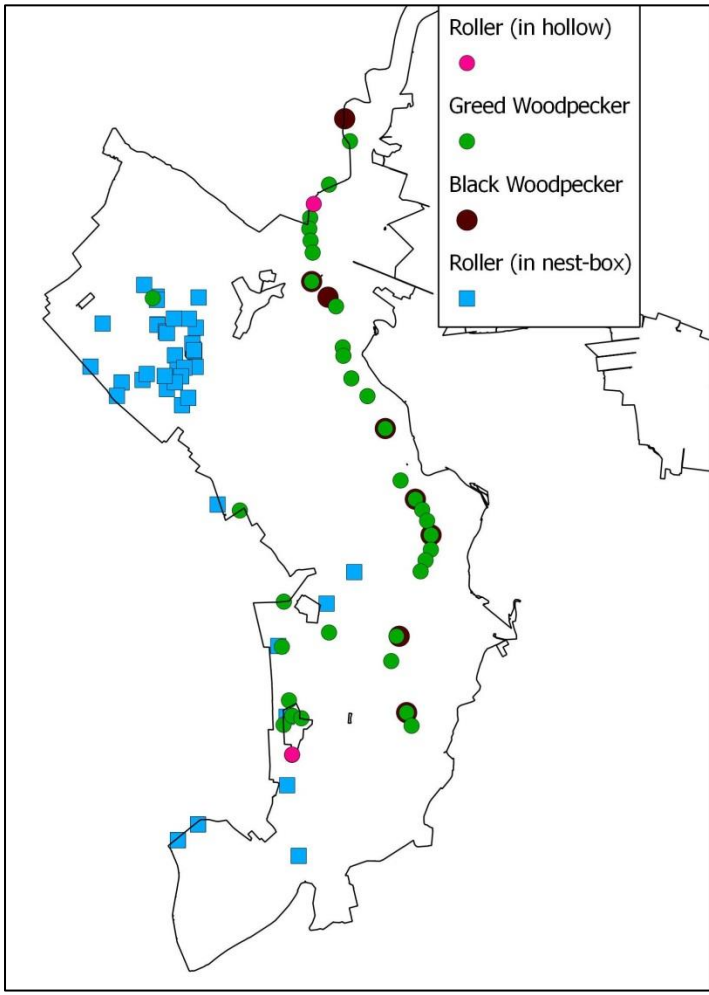
- Lack of suitable breeding places (natural cavities ) - critical
- Electrocution (medium-voltage pylons)- high
- Lack of suitable foraging sites - medium
- Predation, mostly Martens (local problem, not every year) - medium
- Climatic condition (rainy, cold periods) medium

# Main threats for rollers in Hungary?

**Long term threats that have no solution yet**

**Loss of suitable nest sites**

- Loss of large trees in small wood formations, riverine woods, in hedges or solitary ones.
- Intensification of forest management leading to loss of old trees.
- High abundance of invasive plant species (*Acer negundo, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Vitis riparia*) in gallery forests



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# Main threats for rollers in Hungary?

**Threats that started fairly recently**

- High dependence on conservation measures: 3200 artificial nest-boxes , 85-90 % of the Roller population breed in nest-boxes

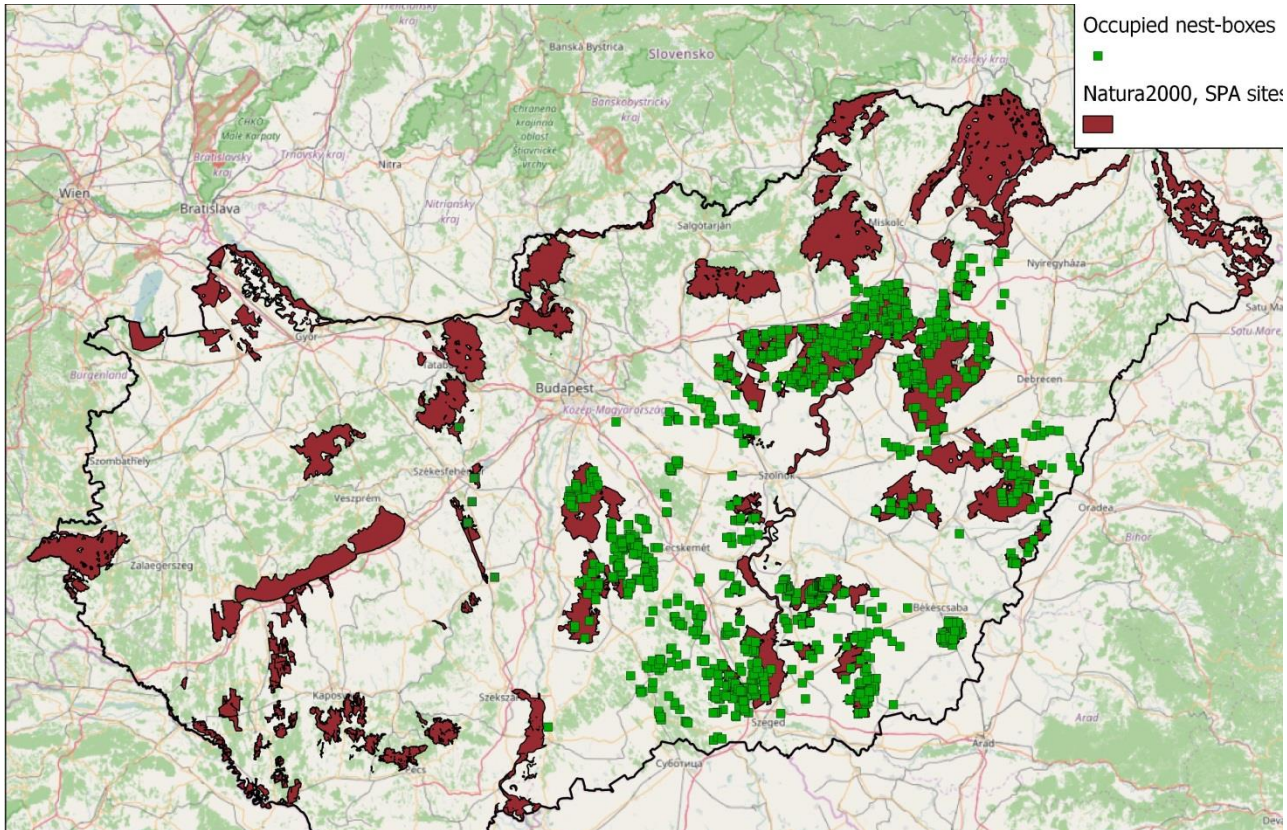
- Preference of nest-boxes over woodpecker hollows?

**Threats that have been solved/or gotten better since the last ISAP (2008).**

- Abandonment and reduced management of meadows and pastures - agri-environmental schemes

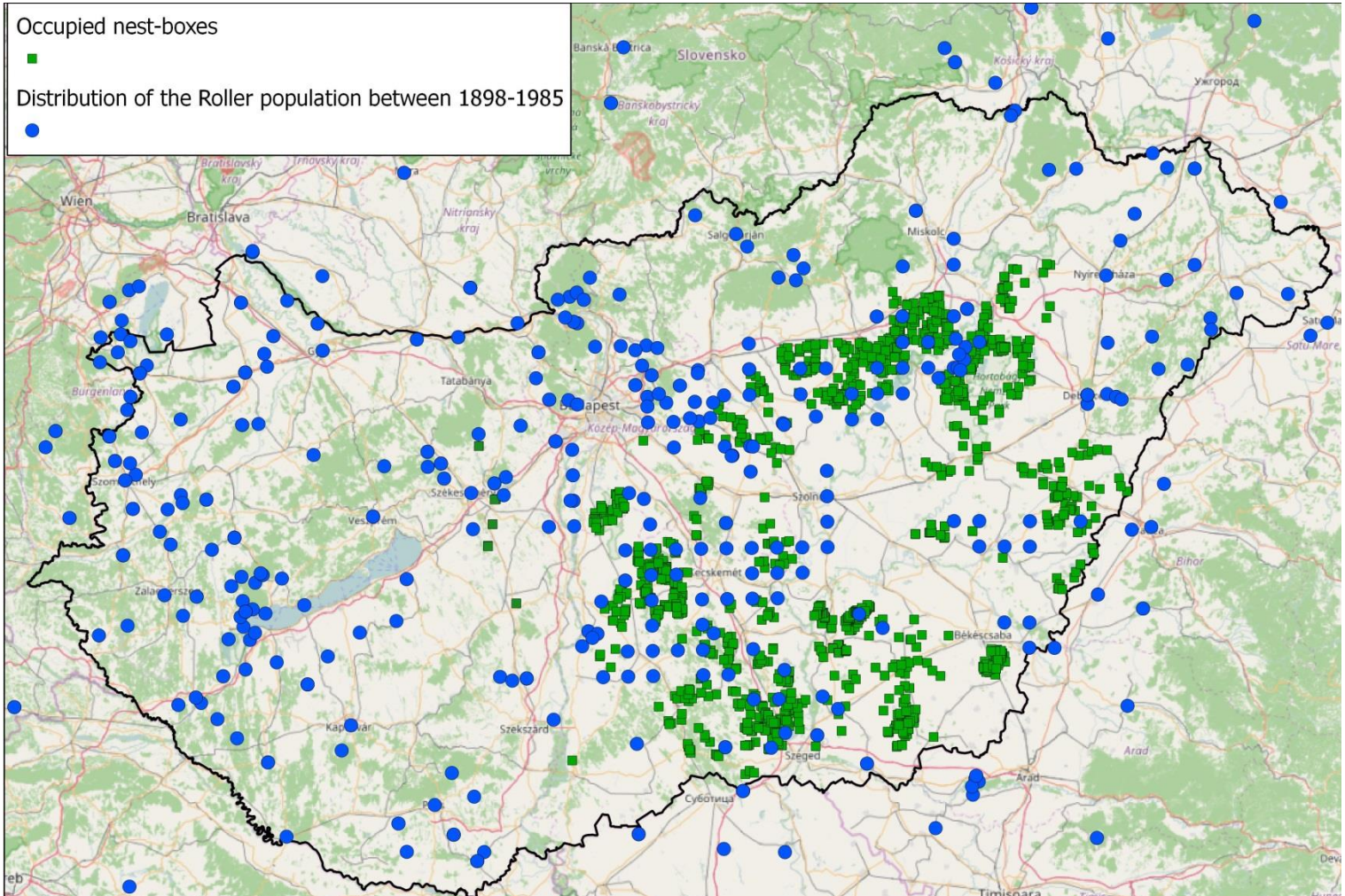
# Changes regarding the policies and legislations? What percentage of the breeding territories are protected?

- Highly protected species, no changes regarding the policies and legislations in Hungary
- ca. 60 % (58,8 in 2015) of the Roller population breeds in SPAs



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

- 2500-3000 pairs, increase the area of distribution



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# Please list the recent conservation activities that are relevant to the species within your country.

1.**2010-2011** IPA (Hungarian-Serbian Cross border Programme
(800 new nest-boxes, *developing* color-ringed system, monitoring programme)

2.**2012**: *The Roller has been added to the list of Annex I bird species/subspecies of Directive 2009/147/EC considered as "Priority for funding under LIFE". Initiative: MME BirdLife Hungary*

3.**2014-2020** ROLLERLIFE: *Developing National Action Plan*

4.**2014** Proposal for inclusion of the entire population of *Coracias garrulus* on Appendix I of CMS**!**

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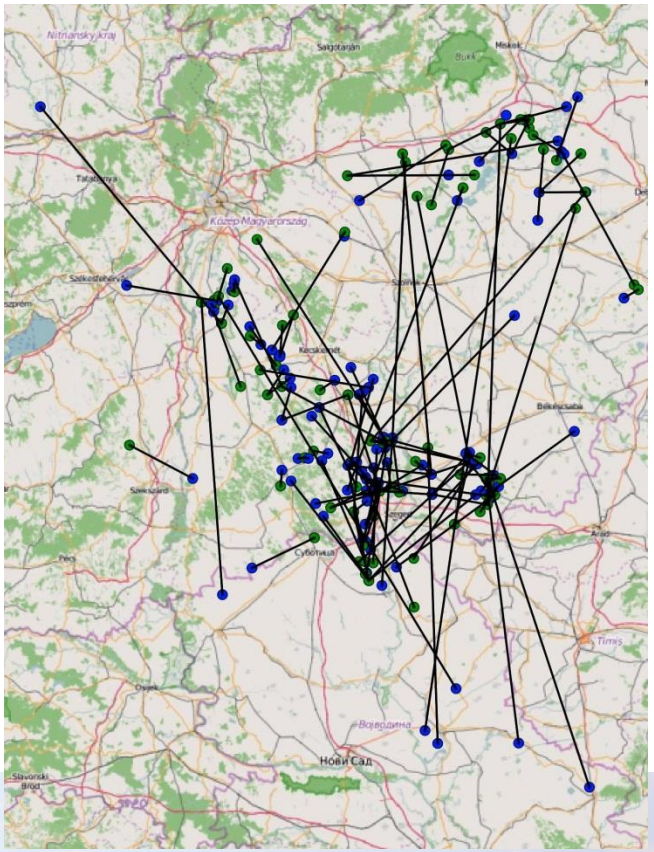
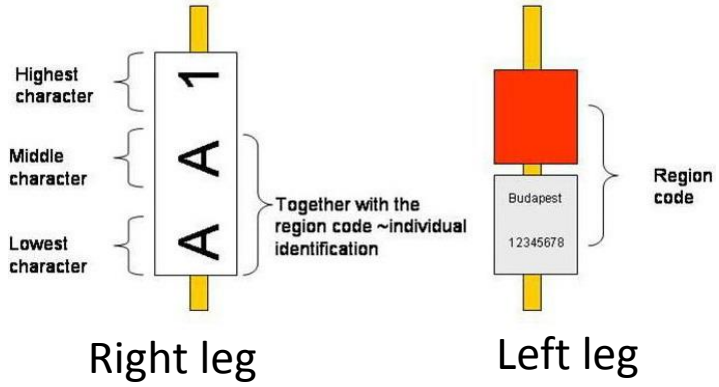
# Please list any new scientific findings that could affect the conservation of the species.

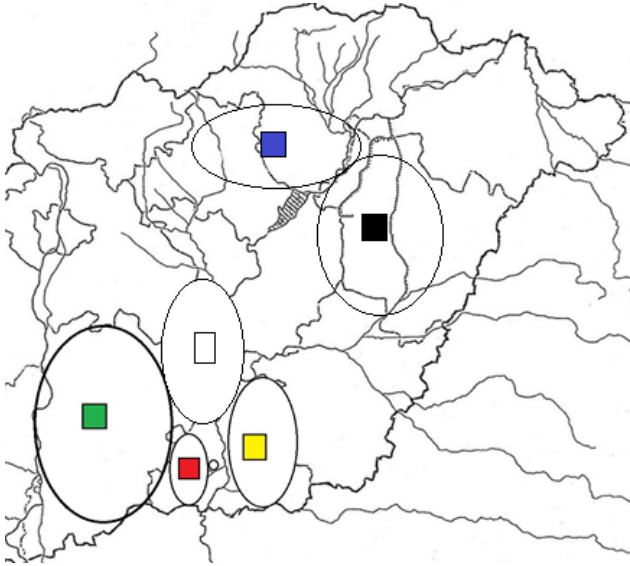
- Importance of small grassland patches
- Importance of habitat heterogeneity
- Mortality during migration
- Advantages of nest-boxes on electric pylons
- moderate dispersal ability (natal disperal c.a: 40km, 10% longer than 100 km)



# Please explain your monitoring methods.

- Monitoring of next-boxes (national parks, Birdlife volunteers)
- Development of an online nest-box database (nest-box characteristics, occupancy data, ringing data from the ringing center)
- Colour-ringing scheme (2016:2135 ringed Rollers, 573 with color-ring, 36 ringers)



# The goals and actions from the last ISAP (2008) that are now considered complete.

- Develop monitoring schemes and implement annual monitoring on Roller populations and breeding success.
- Develop best practice guide for nest box placement, design and maintenance to reduce nest site competition with other species and natural predation.
- Raise the awareness about the value and conservation status of the Roller among key stakeholders: **Farmers for Rollers Program**
- Protect and restore non-productive features such as tracks, ditches, fallow and beetle banks – **Project sites of the Roller Life + project**
- Provide natural and artificial perches for hunting in areas where they are missing. **Farmers for Rollers Program**

# The goals and actions from the last ISAP (2008) that are now considered complete.

- Conserve riverbank trees and riparian forests as protected habitat types and features of the landscape. **Project site of the Roller Life + project**
- Promote planting of native soft woods and the elimination of introduced tree species in Roller priority areas **Farmers for Rollers Program**
- Install nest boxes including in areas with healthy populations but with likely shortage of nest sites. **3200 nest-boxes for Rollers**
- Promote international cooperation for the study of Roller movements and the threats along flyways. **Cooperation with Serbia, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Israel**
- Promote bird friendly electric pylon design. - ongoing

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

Decrease the abundance of invasive plant species in gallery forests.

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# Thank you for your attention!