

European Roller in Bosnia and Herzegovina



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Photos and sightings: Mirko Šarac

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

Published data on European Roller in Bosnia and Herzegovina...

- **In a paper by Obratil (1977), European Roller is listed as a breeding species in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the locations of the breeding sites are not mentioned.**
- **Until late XIX century European Roller was common and widespread species.**
- **In XX century only 5 sightings of this species were recorded::**
 - **one individual on 15.04.1905. near Jablanica**
 - **one juvenile in August 1909. in Teslić**
 - **one male in May 1909. in Žepče**
 - **one pair on 08.06.1918. in Domanovići**
 - **one individual in May 1933. in Drvar**
- **Source:**
Obratil, S., 1977: Pregled istraživanja ornitofaune Bosne i Hercegovine VI (Columbiformes, Cuculiformes, Strigiformes, Caprimulgiformes, Apodiformes, Coraciformes, Piciformes). GZM BiH (PN) NS 16: 203-223.

The status of the European Roller in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina European Roller currently has a status of Extinct Breeder. There is data on breeding activity during 1980s and 1990s, but newer surveys (until 2009) indicate that this species doesn't breed in Bosnia and Herzegovina anymore.

- Sources:

Kotrošan, D., Papes, M., 2007: Popis ptica zabilježenih u Bosni i Hercegovini od 1888. do 2006. godine. Bilten Mreže posmatrača ptica u Bosni i Hercegovini, 3(3): 9-38.

Kotrošan, D, 2008/2009: Dopune i korekcije popisu ptica zabilježenih u Bosni i Hercegovini od 1888. do 2006. godine. Bilten Mreže posmatrača ptica u Bosni i Hercegovini, 4-5(4-5): 72-85.

- The only published date from XXI century: one individual on 29. 05. 2010. in Mokronoge near Tomislavgrad.

- Source:

Mulaomerović, J., 2011/2012: European Roller seen in Bosnia and Herzegovina again after 100 years. Bilten Mreže posmatrača ptica u Bosni i Hercegovini, 7-8(7-8): 95.

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



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	unknown	Yes	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).

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	2.5-5.5	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
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0-5		2016	unknown	
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.

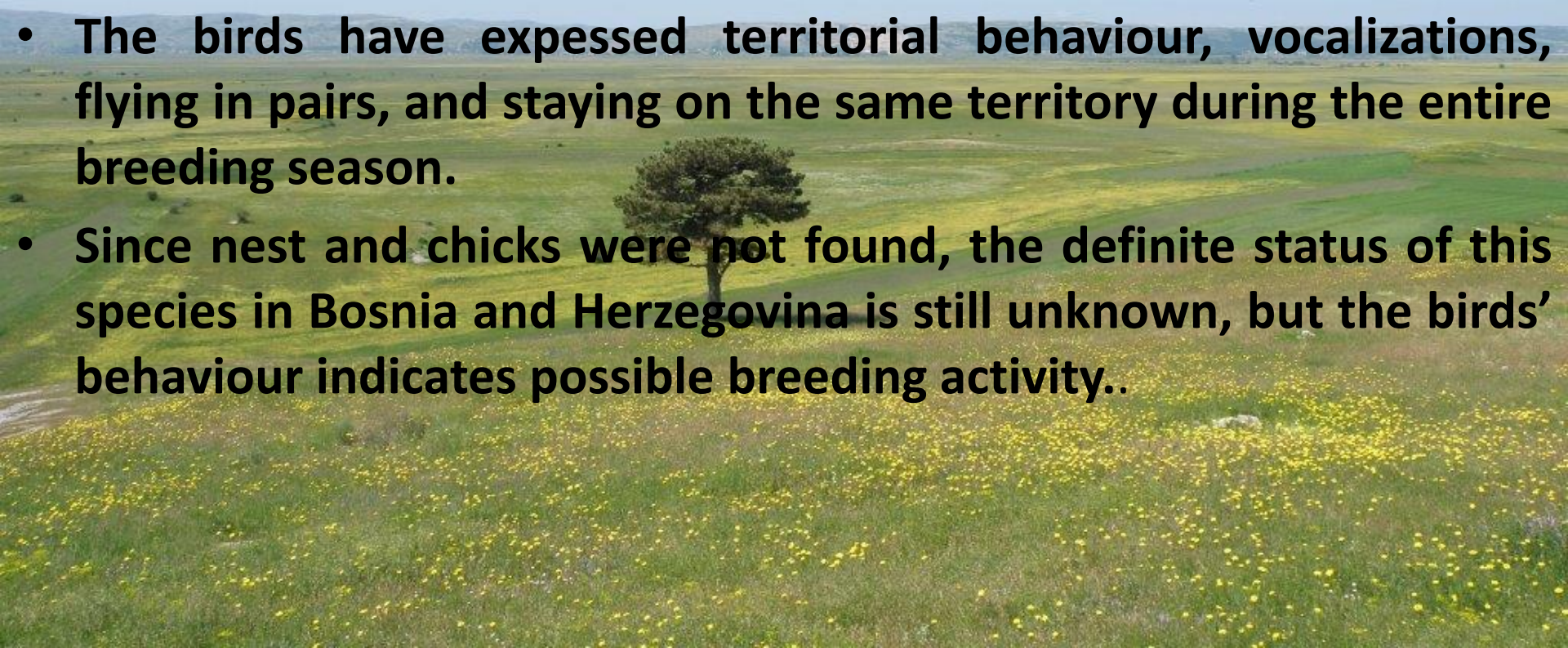
Population size and trend by country (BirdLife International 2008).
Notes: G – Good; M – Medium; P – Poor.

New (unpublished) data on European Roller in Bosnia and Herzegovina

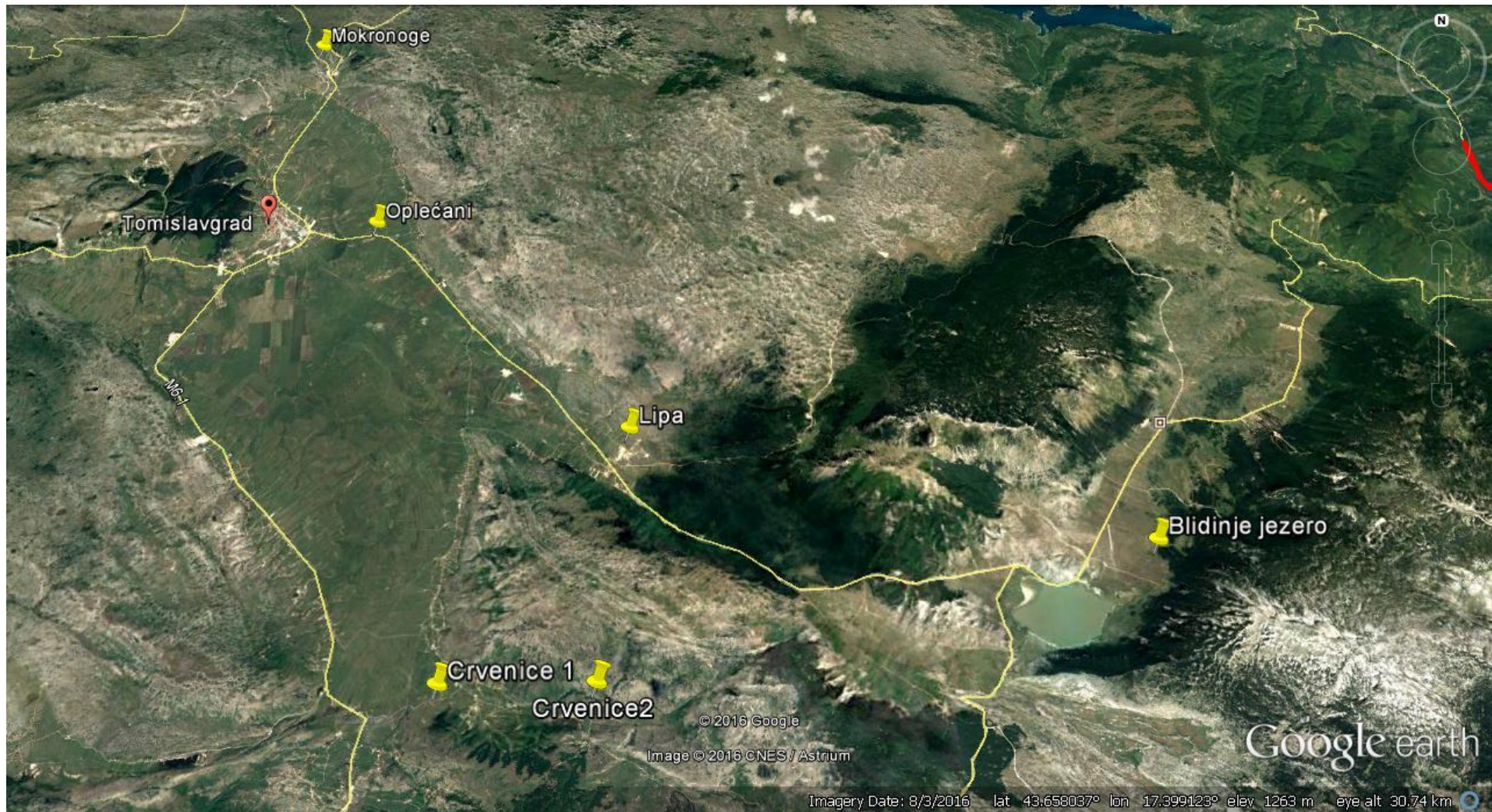
- One individual on 08.05.2011. in north part of Duvanjsko polje in Mokronoge (43.776064°, 17.229277°)
- One individual on 01.05.2013. in Oplećani in Duvanjsko polje (43.712 864°, 17. 262858°)
- One individual on 03.05.2014. in Crvenice 1, southern part of Duvanjsko polje (43.588003°, 17.305709°)
- One individual on 06.05.2015. in Crvenice 2, southern part of Duvanjsko polje (43.588345°, 17.352701°)
- Two individuals observed from 02.06.2016. until 15.07.2016. near Blidinje lake (43.620322°, 17.523880°)
- Two individuals observed from 10.06.2016. until 01.10.2016. in Lipa, Duvanjsko polje (43.650606°, 17.358345°). Birds' behaviour and sightings during the breeding season indicate possible breeding activity.

Analysis of newer sightings of European Roller in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- In 2010-2015 period there was a total of 5 sightings of European Roller in Bosnia and Herzegovina. All sightings were during the first week of May, and those birds are thought to be migrants.
- In 2016, two pairs were registered during the entire breeding season in localities Lipa and Blidinje lake in Duvanjsko polje.
- The birds have expressed territorial behaviour, vocalizations, flying in pairs, and staying on the same territory during the entire breeding season.
- Since nest and chicks were not found, the definite status of this species in Bosnia and Herzegovina is still unknown, but the birds' behaviour indicates possible breeding activity..



Spatial distribution of findings of European Roller in 2010-2016 period in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Conclusions:

- 1. During the 2010-2016. period European Roller was regularly seen in the area of Duvanjsko polje.**
- 2. The localities of all sightings are relatively close to one another.**
- 3. Duvanjsko polje is mostly covered by open grasslands, with several rivers and canals with woody and shrubby vegetation. The extensive cattle breeding and crop growing are current agricultural activities in Duvanjsko polje. Those habitats are excellent for breeding activity of European Roller.**
- 4. Until now, there were no methodological bird surveys in the area of Duvanjsko polje. Except for occasional sightings, there are not additional data on this species, so there is a possibility that there is a smaller population in this area.**

Plans

- 1. The current data on European Roller indicate that there is a need for organized monitoring of this species during the breeding period. It is also necessary to determine the definite status of the species.**
- 2. In case the breeding activity is proven, it is necessary to develop protection measures. Although there is no intensive anthropogenic pressure in Duvanjsko polje, this population of European Roller is small and isolated, hence faced with extinction.**
- 3. The lack of breeding holes is the main limiting factor for survival and reproduction of this species, so it is necessary to set up some nesting boxes in the localities on which European Rollers were registered during the past seasons.**