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The status of the European Roller in Montenegro



Roller is breeding at few localities along Adriatic coast of Montenegro (295 km long)





Ulcinj salina: 10 – 20 bp, artificial nesting box





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Hinterland of Long beach in Ulcinj: 1-3 bp, old trees



www.visit-ulcinj.com/blog



Buljarica: 1-2 bp, old oak trees





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Tivat salina, salt pans: 0-2 bp, artificial nesting box





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Sutorina: 0-2 bp, artificial nesting box





| 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 |

Besides breeding, rollers also migrate across Montenegro.

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 |
| | | | | | |
| 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: 15-25 pairs
- Quality: poor
- Year of the latest estimate: 2002 - 2012
- Trend in last 15 years is stable
- Quality: moderate increase

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?

Long term threats that have no solution yet

- Permanent grasslands are under pressure of urbanisation – **Critical**
- Land abandonment/ reduced management of meadows and pastures– **High**

Threats that started fairly recently?

- Habitat degradation and afforestation of pastures - **High**
- Clearing of riverbank trees and riparian forests – **High**
- Loss of solitary and old trees with cavities - **High**

Threats that have been solved?

- Lack of natural trees with necessary cavities is compensated with artificial nesting boxes



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?

- Tivat salt pans are nationally protected, but not managed.
- Ulcinj salina is waiting for an act of protection (80% of national population is nesting here).
- Buljarica, hinterland of Long beach in Ulcinj and Sutorina are under huge touristic pressure. It is likely that this land will be devastated in the next 10 years.



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

- The main goal is to protect all areas where rollers are breeding because these areas are one of the last oases of natural habitats along 300 km coast of Montenegro.
- Also, one goal is to improve breeding conditions throughout setting up nesting boxes.



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.

- CZIP-BirdLife with Euranatur are conducting the programme of monitoring and habitat restoration at the Ulcinj Salina (IBA), where 80% of population is nesting.



Please explain your monitoring methods.

- Visiting roller habitats during migration and breeding period, one or twice per month (May and June). Method usually used is line transect.
- After breeding period (July), when youngs are already fledged, nesting boxes are checked and, after breeding, success is estimated.



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.

Comment: it is protected under national legislation. Natura 2000 process is ongoing. All areas where roller breeds are IBA and potential SPA.

1.1.3 Develop site management plans for Roller priority areas or include Roller conservation measures in existing ones

Comment: Management plan for Ulcinj salina is developed and roller conservation measures are included in it.

1.2.1. Develop monitoring schemes and implement annual monitoring on Roller populations and breeding success.

Comment: The monitoring scheme is developed. Monitoring of breeding success is difficult because lack of ornithologists and financial support.



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

1.2.3. Define priority areas for Roller conservation

Comment: Priority areas for Roller are identified and the efforts for its conservation are invested.

1.3.1 Raise the awareness about the value and conservation status of the Roller among key stakeholders

Comment: It is partially done. Key stakeholders were national institutions for nature conservation, such as Environmental Protection Agency and Public Enterprise for Management of Coastal Areas. Also, we tried to raise awareness among students from elementary school and high school in the coastal towns, students of biology, and other general public.

2.2.6 Install nest boxes including in areas with healthy populations but with likely shortage of nest sites.



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Thank you.