



**SZALAKÓTA**  
védelmi program  
[www.rollerproject.eu](http://www.rollerproject.eu)



# The status of the European Roller in Slovenia

Gregor Domanjko, Goričko Nature Park Public Institute







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

- ***In 2016 we did not have breeding rollers***
- ***The last successful breeding pair was in 2014 with 5 chicks in Goričko Nature Park and N2k Goričko which is a neighbouring site to the Austrian N2k Südoststeirisches Hügelland with breeding rollers.***



*Map 1: Data of Roller observations in breeding season in main priority areas for Roller in Slovenia; Google Maps (NOAGS; BirdLife Slovenia 2016).*



Range states	Breeding	Migration	Wintering
Albania	yes	No	no
Armenia	yes	No	no
<b>Austria</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
Azerbaijan	yes	No	no
Belarus	yes	No	no
Bosnia and Herzegovina	yes	No	no
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
Croatia	yes	No	no
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>extinct</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>extinct</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
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
<b>Poland</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
Russia (European)	yes	No	no
Serbia	yes	Yes	no
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>extinct</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>no</b>
Turkey	yes	Yes	no
Ukraine	yes	Yes	no

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

- ***The European Roller is possibly extinct in Slovenia.***
- ***Rollers can be seen after breeding and during migration.***

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	<b>0-4</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>possibly extinct</b>	<b>G</b>
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.**

- 2000-4 b. pairs,
- 2001-3 b. pairs,
- 2002-2 b. pairs,
- 2003-2 b. pairs,
- 2004-3 b. pairs,
- 2005-1 b. pair,
- 2006-2013-0
- **2014-1 b. pair,**
- 2015-0
- 2016-0

(Štumberger & Bračko 2005, Domanjko & Gjergjek 2014, Denac 2016)

*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?

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

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

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

## CRITICAL

- ***Intensification of grassland management on existing grasslands.***
- ***Loss of suitable breeding/foraging habitat by land consolidations and agricultural reclamations (removal of hedges and individual trees with cavities, loss of extensively used meadows and high trunk orchards, destruction of ditches with riparian forest, drainage of wet meadows).***

## HIGH

- ***Loss of breeding/foraging habitat for cross-border population of Roller in Austria.***

## MEDIUM

- ***Reduced management and decline of animal husbandry.***
- ***Conversion of permanent grassland to other land use by organic farmers who are farming just to collect agro-environmental subsidies.***
- ***Conversion of permanent grassland to other land use by Austrian farmers who are buying cheap agricultural land and are not part of the Slovenian agricultural schemes.***
- ***Inbreeding of common Austrian-Slovenian population (birds from this population are closely genetically related).***
- ***Loss of breeding habitats in areas important for Rollers in Croatia as a “stepping stone” for Roller population in Slovenia and Austria.***
- ***Use of pesticides on crop fields close to or on foraging habitats.***





Please list any long term threats that have no solution yet?

- ***Intensification of grassland management on existing grasslands,***
- ***loss of suitable breeding/foraging habitats by land consolidations and agricultural reclamations in N2k Goričko and IBA Doli Slovenskih goric-main priority areas for Roller in Slovenia,***
- ***loss of breeding habitats in cross-border area in Austria.***





Please list any threats that started fairly recently?

- ***Conversion of permanent grassland to other land use by organic farmers who are farming just to collect agro-environmental subsidies.***
- ***Conversion of permanent grassland to other land use by Austrian farmers who are buying relatively cheap agricultural land in N2k Goričko and are not part of the Slovenian agricultural schemes.***



Please list any threats that have been solved/or gotten better since the last ISAP (2008).

- ***More smaller and medium-sized farmers have joined agro-environmental schemes in N2k Goričko.***

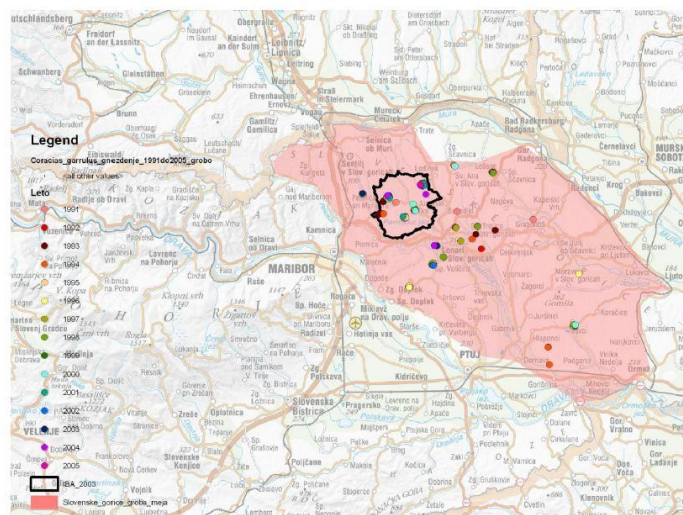






Have there been any changes in your country regarding the policies and legislations relevant to the management of the species? What percentage of the breeding territories are protected?

- ***In 2013, the Slovenian Government decided to delete the only SPA in Slovenia in which the European Roller was a N2k qualifying species according to the status of the European Roller there at the time of the designation of Natura 2000 sites in Slovenia (2-9 pairs in period 1993-2003).***
- ***Approximately 60 % of the breeding territories are protected - the whole N2k Goričko, although the species is not listed as qualifying.***



Slika 1: Lokacije gnezdišč zlatovranke v Slovenskih goricah v obdobju 1991-2005 (leta 2005 je vrsta zadnjič gnezдила). IBA Doli Slovenskih goric je omejen s črno črto, grobo mejo celih Slovenskih goric pa predstavlja svetlo rdeči poligon. Različne barve pik se nanašajo na različna leta (za barve glej legendo), posamezna pika predstavlja 1-4 pare. Vir: Monitoring zlatovranke v letih 1991 – 2005 (Štumberger & Bračko neobjavljeno).



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

- *To safeguard and to improve the breeding habitat for Rollers in N2k Goričko.*







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.

- *Annual monitoring of Rollers in N2k Goričko and in former N2K Slovenske gorice-doli by Goričko Nature Park Public Institute (GNP PI) and DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia members (DOPPS).*
- *Since 2008, GNP PI and DOPPS installed more than 30 wooden nest boxes in N2k Goričko and 10 in IBA Doli Slovenskih goric area.*
- *60 wooden artificial perches installed for hunting in N2k Goričko since 2013.*
- *Promotion of agro-environmental subsidies which could help improve breeding habitat.*
- *Grassland restorations for butterflies (and birds) in N2k Goričko within projects funded by EFRD.*
- *Nature conservation activities of GNP PI for Roller are included in the Management Plan of Goričko Nature Park.*
- *All 5 Roller chicks raised in 2014 were ringed by Slovenian and Austrian experts.*
- *DOPPS & GNP PI sent a request to the National nature conservation authority which is responsible for N2k sites in Slovenia to list the European Roller as a qualifying species for N2k Goričko.*
- *3 guided trips, 4 lectures and more than 10 published short articles in local newspapers, aimed at raising awareness about the European Roller for locals in N2k Goričko and IBA Doli Slovenskih goric in the last 3 years.*
- *65 nest boxes placed from 1995 till 2005 in IBA Doli Slovenskih goric by DOPPS.*





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.

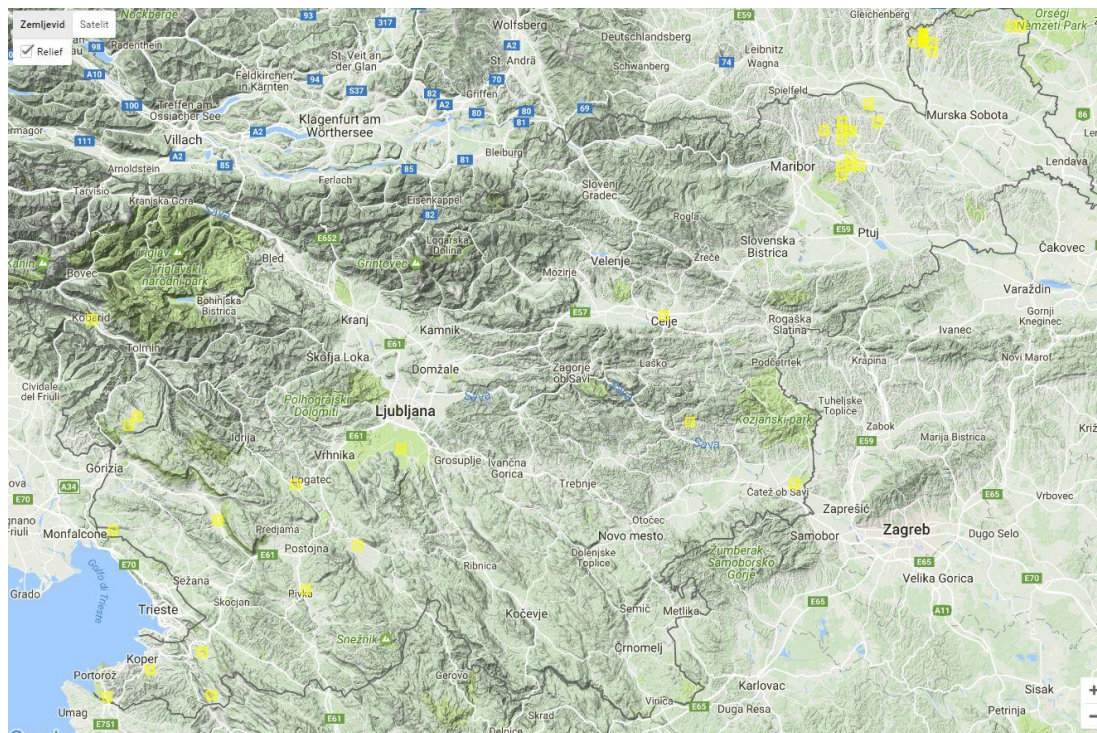






Please list any new scientific findings that could affect the conservation of the species.

- ***No new scientific findings except that there are more than 10 records of Rollers in breeding season from different parts of Slovenia in the last 3 years besides N2k Goričko (NOAGS-Slovenian Atlas of breeding birds) – but only one confirmed breeding (Goričko 2014).***



Map 2: Data of Roller observations in breeding season in Slovenia; Google Maps (NOAGS; BirdLife Slovenia 2016).



Please explain your monitoring methods.

- ***Annual checking of 140 nest boxes for Rollers and the Scops Owl in N2k Goričko and IBA Doli Slovenskih goric placed since 2008.***
- ***Annual Roller survey of individual birds by area count method during the breeding season – end of May and in the middle of July in N2k Goričko and IBA Doli Slovenskih goric.***



Photo by Gregor Domanjko and Robi Gjergjek





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

- **1.2.1.: Developed monitoring schemes and implemented annual monitoring of Roller population and breeding success.**
- **1.3.1.: Raise the awareness about the value and conservation status of the European Roller in priority areas.**
- **2.1.3.: Promote grazing livestock practises and hay mowing on meadows in priority areas, especially in N2k Goričko.**
- **2.1.11.: Provide natural and artificial perches for hunting in areas where they are missing.**
- **2.2.6.: Install nest boxes in priority areas.**

***All these actions, despite being listed here as „completed“, need continuation.***



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

- ***Agri-environmental subsidies for birds of cultural landscape within the new CAP.***



Photos by DOPPS and Gregor Domanjko



**SZALAKÓTA**  
védelmi program  
[www.rollerproject.eu](http://www.rollerproject.eu)



# Thank you

[gregor.domanjko@goricko.info](mailto:gregor.domanjko@goricko.info)