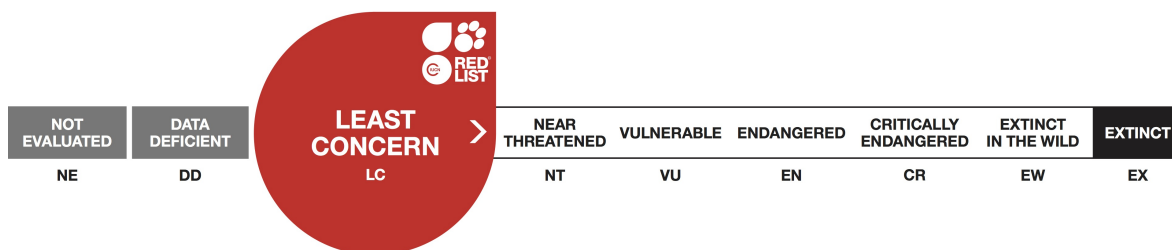




Coracias garrulus, European Roller

Assessment by: BirdLife International



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Coraciiformes	Coraciidae

Taxon Name: *Coracias garrulus* Linnaeus, 1758

Regional Assessments:

- Europe

Common Name(s):

- English: European Roller, Roller
- French: Rollier d'Europe

Taxonomic Source(s):

Cramp, S. and Simmons, K.E.L. (eds). 1977-1994. *Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The birds of the western Palearctic*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2018

Date Assessed: August 9, 2018

Justification:

This species has been downlisted to Least Concern. Although the population is still thought to be declining, the declines are not thought to be sufficiently rapid to warrant listing as Near Threatened. The European population is still thought to be declining but at a less severe rate and the Central Asian population is not thought to be declining significantly. Conservation actions in several countries have contributed to national recoveries.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2017 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-1.RLTS.T22682860A111884908.en>

2016 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22682860A92965129.en>

2015 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015.RLTS.T22682860A84399225.en>

2012 – Near Threatened (NT)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2012-1.RLTS.T22682860A37868316.en>

2008 – Near Threatened (NT)

2005 – Near Threatened (NT)

2004 – Least Concern (LC)

2000 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

1994 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

1988 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species occurs as two subspecies: the nominate breeds from **Morocco**, south-west and south-central Europe and Asia Minor east through north-west **Iran** to south-west Siberia (**Russia**); and *semenowi*, which breeds in **Iraq** and Iran (except north-west) east to Kashmir and north to **Turkmenistan**, south **Kazakhstan** and north-west **China** (west Sinkiang). The species overwinters in two distinct regions of Africa, from **Senegal** east to **Cameroon** and from **Ethiopia** west to **Congo** and south to **South Africa** (del Hoyo *et al.* 2001). It has a large global population, including an estimated 100,000-220,000 individuals in Europe (50-74% of the global breeding range) (BirdLife International 2004). However, following a moderate decline during 1970-1990 (Tucker and Heath 1994), the species continued to decline by up to 25% across Europe during 1990-2000 (including in key populations in Turkey and European Russia) (BirdLife International 2004). Overall European declines exceeded 30% in three generations (15 years).

The most recent assessment of the European population suggests the decline has slowed to c. 5-20% in three generations (BirdLife International 2015). Populations in northern Europe have undergone severe declines (Estonia: 50-100 pairs in 1998 to no known breeding pairs in 2004 and 0-3 reported for 2008-2012 [A. Kalamees *in litt.* 2005, BirdLife International 2015], Latvia: several thousand to under 30 pairs in 2004 and 2012 [E. Raèinskis *in litt.* 2005, BirdLife International 2015], Lithuania: 1,000-2,000 pairs in 1970s to less than 20 pairs in 2004 and 2008-2012 [L. Raudonikis *in litt.* 2005, BirdLife International 2015]), and in Russia it has now disappeared from the northern part of its range (A. Mischenko *in litt.* 2005) with 7,000-10,000 pairs reported in its European range (BirdLife International 2015). However, the population in Central Asian is apparently not experiencing significant declines (R. Ayé *in litt.* 2015).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Angola; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Belarus; Benin; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; China; Congo; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czechia; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Estonia; Eswatini; Ethiopia; France; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Germany; Ghana; Gibraltar; Greece; Guinea-Bissau; Hungary; India; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Israel; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Libya; Lithuania; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malawi; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Moldova; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Oman; Pakistan; Palestine, State of; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation (Central Asian Russia, European Russia); Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Spain; Sudan; Syrian Arab Republic; Tajikistan; Tanzania, United Republic of; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; Western Sahara; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe

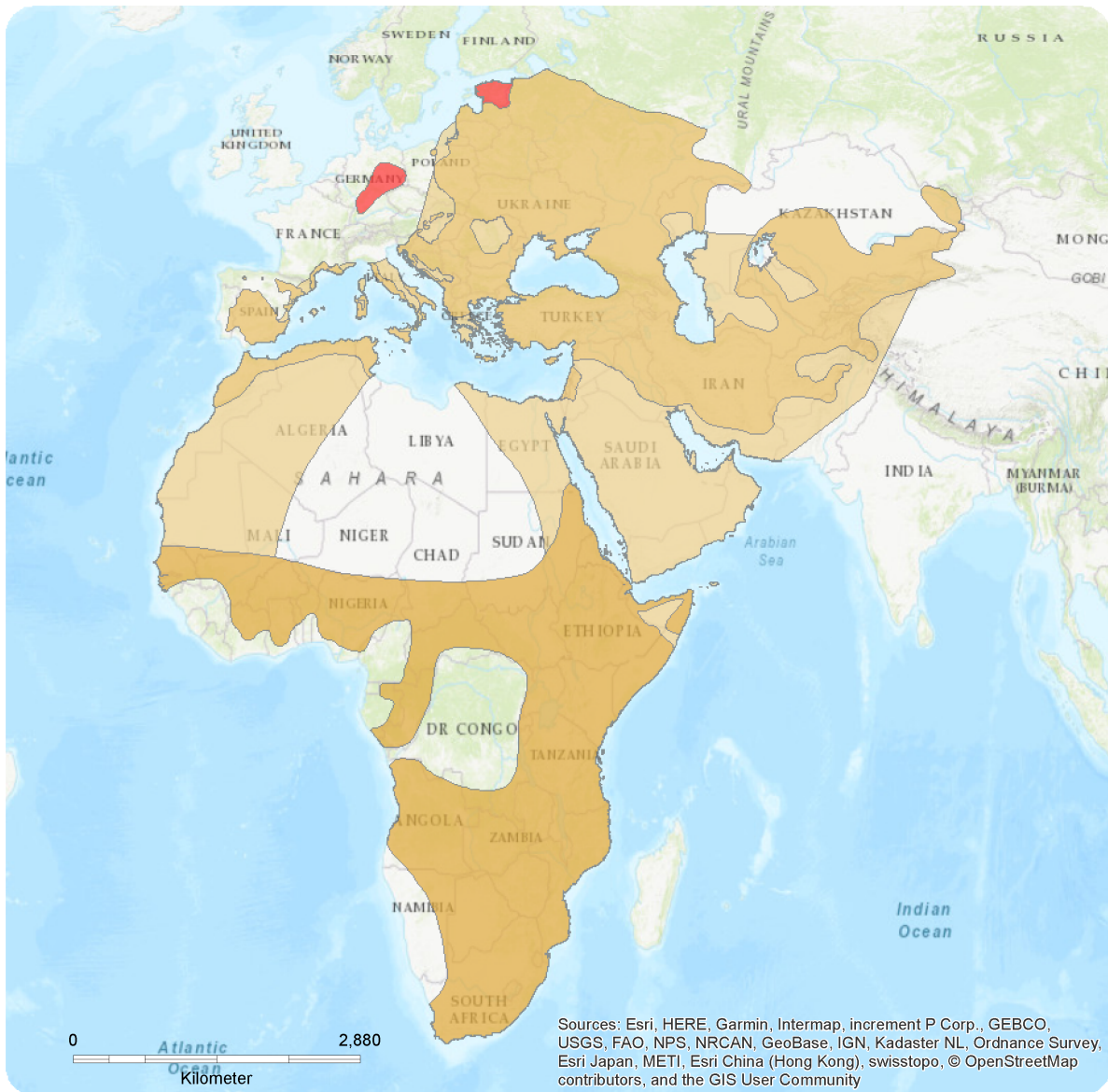
Regionally extinct: Sweden

Vagrant: Belgium; Cabo Verde; Comoros; Denmark; Faroe Islands; Finland; Iceland; Ireland; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Sao Tome and Principe; Seychelles; Switzerland; Togo; United Kingdom

Present - origin uncertain: San Marino

Distribution Map

Coracias garrulus

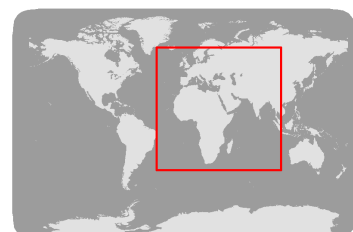


Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non-breeding)
- Extant (passage)
- Possibly Extinct

Compiled by:

BirdLife International and Handbook of the Birds of the World (2018)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

In Europe, the breeding population is estimated to number 75,000-158,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International 2015). The European population is thought to hold around 40% of the global breeding range therefore a very approximate estimate of the global population is 188,000-395,000 mature individuals or 282,000-593,000 individuals. Here placed in the band 100,000-499,999 mature individuals and 200,000-600,000 individuals.

Trend Justification

The species was previously thought to be undergoing sharp declines in Europe, however new data compiled for the 2015 European Red List of Birds suggests that the population is declining at a less severe rate, with the breeding population decreasing by c. 5-20% over three generations (16.8 years) (however many national populations in central and eastern Europe are still declining) (BirdLife International 2015). Negative trends are still reported for northern European populations such as Lithuania as well as Latvia, Poland, Belarus and Estonia (L. Raudonikis *in litt.* 2015). Some southern European populations have also declined: in the past century, the species has gone extinct in Germany, Denmark, Sweden (Snow & Perrins, 1998) and Finland (Avilés *et al.* 1999), possibly due to habitat loss as a result of agricultural intensification (Snow & Perrins 1998). In Central Europe, extinctions occurred in some areas around 25 years ago with no evidence of recolonization (M. Vogrin *in litt.* 2015).

It is thought to be relatively common in Tajikistan (D. Ewbank *in litt.* 2015) and in Central Asia (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Krygystan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) an analysis of observations of this species suggests that a strong or moderate decline is unlikely whilst a weaker decline cannot be excluded due to limitations in the data (R. Ayé *in litt.* 2015). The species is considered common in Uzbekistan by ornithologists however significant habitat loss has occurred suggesting the species may be declining (R. Kashkarov *in litt.* 2015). Populations in the Middle East have not apparently exhibited declines. Europe holds approximately 40% of the global breeding range, considering new information from Central Asia which suggests the species has not declined significantly and assuming that populations in the Middle East and north-west Africa have also not declined significantly since they were last assessed, the population is not thought to be undergoing significant declines.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The European Roller breeds throughout temperate, steppe and Mediterranean zones characterized by reliable warm summer weather. It prefers lowland open countryside with patches of oak *Quercus* forest, mature pine *Pinus* woodland with heathery clearings, orchards, mixed farmland, river valleys, and plains with scattered thorny or leafy trees. It winters primarily in dry wooded savanna and bushy plains (del Hoyo *et al.* 2001). In Europe, the species mainly breeds in abandoned Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* cavities in white poplar *Populus alba*, especially in riparian forests, less often in *Salix* spp., or infrequently in natural cavities of planes *Platanus orientalis*, walls or sand-banks (Tron *et al.* 2006, Poole *et al.* in prep). They mostly forage in agricultural habitats, especially meadows (May and August) and in cereals in June-July. Fallow land is always favoured. Vineyards can be attractive if the soil keeps some vegetation cover (Tron *et al.* 2006, Poole *et al.* in prep). Hedgerows (as well as fences and powerlines) are essential perches while looking for prey (Tron *et al.* 2006, Poole *et al.* in prep).

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Threats include persecution on migration in some Mediterranean countries and hundreds, perhaps thousands, are shot for food in **Oman** every spring (del Hoyo *et al.* 2001), and Gujarat, **India**. The loss of suitable breeding habitat due to changing agricultural practices, conversion to monoculture, loss of nest sites, and use of pesticides (reducing food availability) are considered to be the main threats to the species in Europe (E. Raèinskis *in litt.* 2005, Kovacs *et al.* 2008). It is sensitive to loss of hedgerows and riparian forest in Europe which provide essential habitats for perching and nesting.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Conservation and Research Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. Bonn Convention Appendix I. An International Species Action Plan is in place (Kovacs *et al.* 2008). Conservation actions in certain countries have contributed to several national population recoveries (Bulgaria, Spain [Rodríguez *et al.* 2011], France and Hungary [Kiss *et al.* 2014]). A number of national monitoring schemes are in place within its range and it has been the focus of targeted study. Species action plans have been developed in Hungary, Latvia, and Andalusia (Spain); similar documents are being drafted in Slovakia and Catalonia (Spain). Working groups present in Austria, Belarus, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia and Slovakia.

Conservation and Research Actions Proposed

Continue monitoring population trends. Determine Turkish, Middle Eastern and Central Asian trends and review its conservation status based on the findings. Tackle specific threats such as hunting. Address threats in Europe relating to the Common Agricultural Policy and integrate appropriate measures into agri-environment schemes.

Credits

Assessor(s): BirdLife International

Reviewer(s): Wheatley, H.

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Citation

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External Resources

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Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.9. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	Non-breeding	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Non-breeding	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	Breeding	Suitable	No

Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
9. Pollution -> 9.3. Agricultural & forestry effluents -> 9.3.4. Type Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: Yes

Conservation Actions in Place
Systematic monitoring scheme: Yes
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Invasive species control or prevention: No
In-Place Species Management
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-Place Education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

Conservation Actions Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions Needed
3. Species management -> 3.1. Species management -> 3.1.1. Harvest management
5. Law & policy -> 5.1. Legislation -> 5.1.1. International level

Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Yes
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 21100000
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Yes

Distribution
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Continuing decline in number of locations: Yes
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No
Upper elevation limit (m): 2400
Population
Number of mature individuals: 100000-499999
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Yes
Extreme fluctuations: No
Population severely fragmented: No
No. of subpopulations: 2-100
Continuing decline in subpopulations: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in subpopulations: No
All individuals in one subpopulation: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes
Generation Length (years): 5.6
Movement patterns: Full Migrant

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