



Ardeola ralloides ralloides

Annex I	Yes-HTL
International action plan	No

Squacco Heron, *Ardeola ralloides*, is a species of heron found in wetland and river and lake ecosystems. It is a widespread but patchily distributed summer visitor to much of southern (especially South-East) Europe. The species inhabits permanent or temporary wetlands showing a preference for fresh waters with abundant marsh vegetation, reedbeds, nearby bushes, trees and scrub. Habitats frequented include swampy plains, river valleys, deltas, lakes, ponds, canals, ditches and rice paddyfields. On migration the species may also occur on estuaries, inshore reefs or islets. It generally avoids dry habitats and those with very high rainfall, and usually breeds in the lowlands although it has bred on montane lakes up to 2,000 m (European Red List 2015).

Ardeola ralloides has a breeding population size of 6300-10700 pairs and a breeding range size of 61500 square kilometres in the EU27. The breeding population trend in the EU27 is Increasing in the short term and Unknown in the long term.

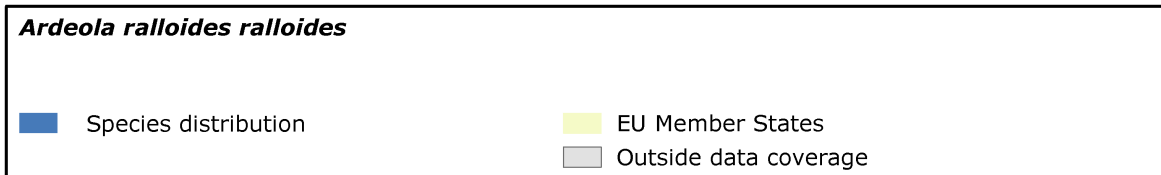
The EU population status of *Ardeola ralloides* was assessed as Secure, because the species does not meet any of the IUCN Red List criteria for threatened or Near Threatened, or the criteria for Depleted or Declining (the EU27 population or range has not declined by 20% or more since 1980).

Assessment of status at the European level

Breeding population size	Breeding population trend		Range area	Breeding range trend		Winter population size	Winter population trend		Population status
	Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term	
6300 - 10700 p	+	x	61500						Secure

See the endnotes for more informationⁱ

Ardeola ralloides ralloides
Report under the Article 12 of the Birds Directive



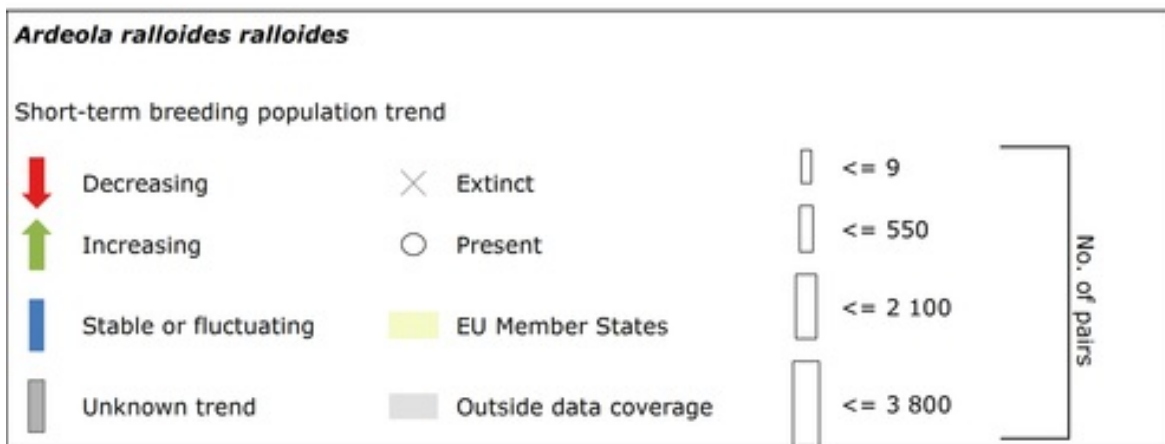
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Trends at the Member State level

MS/Ter.	% in EU27	Breeding population size	Breeding population trend		Range area	Breeding range trend		Winter population size	Winter population trend	
			Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term
BG	8.1	320 - 570 p	0	-	9300	0	-			
CY	0.9	2 - 7 p	+	+	300	+	+			
ES	15.9	2050 - 2076 p	+	+	8832	+	+			
FR	12.3	210 - 810 p	+	+	6300	-	+			
GR										
HU	14.1	250 - 450 p	F	x	4635	0	x			
IT	41.3	500 - 600 p	-	+	28600	+	+			
PT	1.2	5 - 15 p	0	-	900	0	+			
RO	6.3	2500 - 5550 p	0	x	2700	x	x			
SK			x	x		x	x			

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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Short-term winter population trend was not reported for this species.

Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the 20 most important pressures and threats using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal (http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_12/reference_portal). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. The table below only contains information from Member States, where a species triggers SPA classification. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance', the table below only shows pressures and threats classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten pressures and threats reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures and threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	32
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	23
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	9
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	9
H01	Pollution to surface waters	9
K01	Abiotic natural processes	9
A06	Crops of annuals & perennials (non-timber)	5
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	5

Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the size of a species population occurring within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites

MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
BG	breeding	YES	82.78
CY	breeding	NO	
ES	breeding	YES	99.37
FR	breeding	YES	96.99
HU	breeding	YES	95.78
IT	breeding	YES	100
PT	breeding	YES	32.66

MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
RO	breeding	YES	100
SK	breeding	NO	

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱⁱ

Most frequently reported conservation measures

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	24
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	17
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	14
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	10
4.3	Managing water abstraction	10
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	7
3.2	Adapt forest management	3
6.0	Other spatial measures	3
6.4	Manage landscape features	3
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	3

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 12 of the Birds Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2008-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:
<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/summary?period=1&subject=A635> .

ⁱ **Assessment of status at the European level:** The EU assessments of birds population status was made by the European Red List of Birds Consortium (under contract with the European Commission)

The EU27 population trends were assessed using these categories: '+' Increasing, '0' Stable, 'F' Fluctuating, '-' Decreasing, 'xu' Uncertain and 'x' Unknown. The breeding population size is estimated in majority of the cases as 'p' number of pairs. Alternative population units used are: 'males' number of males, 'i' number of individuals, 'cmales' number of calling males and 'bfem' number of breeding females. The winter population size is estimated as number of individuals.

ⁱⁱ **Species trends at the Member State level:** The percentage of the EU27 species population occurring in the Member States (% in EU27) is calculated based on the population size reported by the Member States.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites:** In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the species population and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece and for non-Annex I species in the Czech Republic.