

Botaurus stellaris

GREAT BITTERN

SPEC 3 (1994: 3) **Status** Depleted

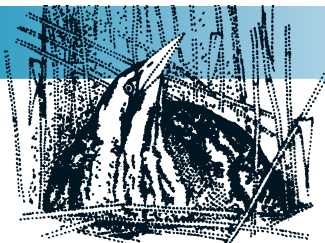
Criteria Large historical decline

European IUCN Red List Category —

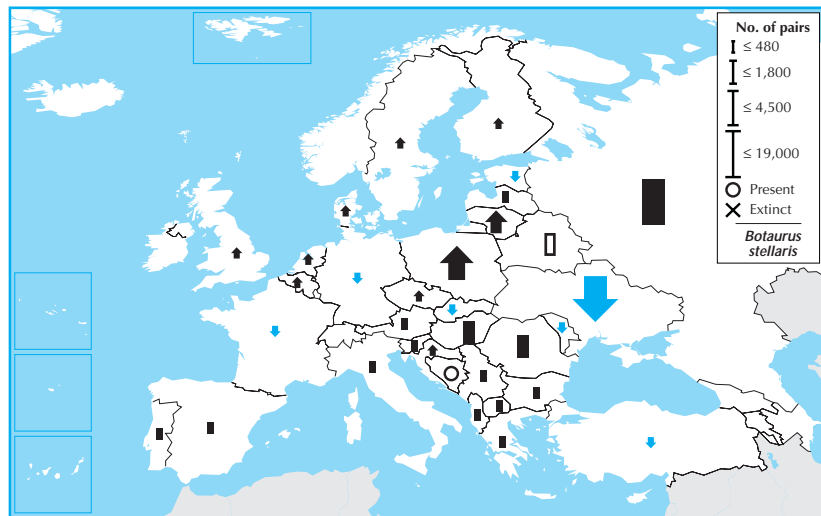
Criteria —

Global IUCN Red List Category —

Criteria —



Botaurus stellaris is a widespread but patchily distributed breeder across much of Europe, which accounts for less than half its global breeding range. Its European breeding population is relatively small (<54,000 pairs), and underwent a large decline between 1970–1990. Although the species was stable overall during 1990–2000, with stable or increasing trends across much of Europe (Ukraine being a notable exception), its population has clearly not yet recovered to the level that preceded its decline. Consequently, it is evaluated as Depleted.



Country	Breeding pop. size (pairs)	Year(s)	Trend	Mag. %	References
Albania	5 – 15	96–02	0	0–19	
Austria	100 – 130	98–02	0	0–19	
Belarus	950 – 1,200	97–02	?	–	
Belgium	12 – 20	95–02	+	0–19	1
Bosnia & HG	Present	85–89	?	–	1
Bulgaria	20 – 70	95–02	(0)	(0–19)	
Croatia	60 – 100	02	(+)	(>80)	54,16
Czech Rep.	30 – 40	00	+	30–49	
Denmark	200 – 300	99–00	+	10–19	16
Estonia	100 – 150	98	–	20–29	1
Finland	200 – 300	99–01	+	100	
France	270 – 317	00	–	0–9	6
Germany	360 – 620	95–99	–	20–29	
Greece	10 – 15	02	0	0–19	
Hungary	700 – 1,000	98–01	0	0–19	
Italy	50 – 70	03	F	30–49	6
Latvia	300 – 500	00–03	(0)	(0–19)	23
Lithuania	800 – 1,000	99–01	+	0–19	20
Macedonia	(1 – 10)	99–00	(0)	(0–19)	
Moldova	30 – 40	90–00	–	20–29	
Netherlands	200 – 250	98–00	+	34	1
Poland	4,100 – 4,800	02–03	(+)	(0–19)	10,11
Portugal	0 – 3	02	(F)	(–)	
Romania	(1,500 – 2,000)	99–02	(0)	(0–19)	
Russia	(13,000 – 25,000)	90–00	0	0–19	8,31,33,44,70,73,104
Serbia & MN	200 – 300	95–02	0	0–19	1,29,78,101,100,203,155
Slovakia	50 – 100	80–99	–	30–49	
Slovenia	0 – 2	90–00	F	>80	
Spain	0 – 50	98–02	(F)	(–)	10,16
Sweden	360 – 400	99–00	+	10–19	
Turkey	(300 – 600)	01	(–)	(0–19)	
Ukraine	10,000 – 15,000	90–00	–	5–9	
UK	21 – 21	97–01	+	16	
Total (approx.)	34,000 – 54,000			Overall trend Stable	
Breeding range	>3,000,000 km²			Gen. length 4	% Global pop. 25–49

Winter pop. size (individuals)

Total (approx.)	>2,400	Overall trend Unknown
% in European IBAs	4–7	Gen. length 4
		% Global pop. 25–49

2000 population	47	34	19
1990 population	66	17	17
Data quality (%) – <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			
	□ unknown	□ poor	□ medium
	□ good		
1990–2000 trend	17	79	
1970–1990 trend	72	10	18