

Blue-bellied Roller

Coracias cyanogaster



Order: Coraciiformes Family: Coraciidae

Range: West Africa

Size: ♂: 34-36 cm (13-14 in)

♀: 34-36 cm (13-14 in)

Weight ♂: 110-178g (3.9-6.2oz)

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Wing: 34 cm (13 in)

Habitat: Moist savannas

Incubation: 18-20 days

Eggs: 2-3

Fledge: 4 weeks

Sexual maturity: 24 month

Nest: tree cavity

Social: pairs or small groups

Breeding: cooperative breeder

Movement : Sedentary

Food: flying insects

IUCN: Least Concern

Subspecies : monotypic

Longevity: captive: 25 yrs

Wild:

Like other members of the family the Blue-bellied Roller gets its name from its acrobatic mating ritual. Both the male and female engage in an aerial display, tumbling and rolling in the air. The male also vocalizes during the display. After breeding both parents incubate the eggs and care for the chicks.

This species is widespread and the population is stable. It is listed as Least concern by the IUCN and is not protected. Due to its colorful appearance it is a popular exhibit species in zoos. However, in free-flight exhibits it can be quite aggressive towards other species and visitors, especially during breeding seasons.