

# Lilac Breasted Roller

*Coracias caudatus*

**Class:** *Aves*

**Order:** *Coraciiformes*

**Family:** *Bucerotidae*

## Characteristics:

Both male and female Lilac Breasted Rollers have highly colorful patterns. The average height of these birds are 14.5 inches ([Kruger National Park Reserves](#)).

## Behavior:

Lilac breasted rollers are often found perching in dead trees. It is thought that they do so to gain a good vantage point for spotting and capturing prey items. When they capture their prey, they will often feast on it on the ground or return to its perch so that it can beat it against the tree before swallowing it whole ([video](#)). Breeding pairs are highly defensive of their nest even outside of the breeding season. Non-breeding birds often hold temporary hunting grounds and are semi-migratory ([Kruger National Park Reserves](#)).

## Reproduction:

The name “roller” comes from the acrobatics seen during a male’s courtship dance. When the courtship is successful the pair will form a [Monogamous](#). The pair will often mate midflight. This pair of birds will claim a large portion of land ([Gorongosa](#)). They usually nest in natural tree holes, termite mounds, and sometimes tree holes prepared by woodpeckers. They lay 2 – 4 eggs that are incubated for approximately 24 days by both parents ([Kruger National Park Reserves](#)).

## Diet:

Wild: Grasshoppers, insects, occasionally lizards, crabs, and amphibians.  
Rarely eats small birds ([Gorongosa](#)).

Zoo: Softbill food pellets, fruit salad, mealworms, feline.

## Conservation:

Although the population isn’t well studied, IUCN considers the birds as least concern given that its range and population size are still large and somewhat stable ([Birdlife International](#)).

## FYI:

- Lilac breasted rollers will often take advantage of other animals as they flee from a bush fire ([video](#)).
- It is the national bird for both Kenya and Bostwana.



## **Range & Habitat:**

Grasslands, open woods, sparse palm trees



## **Lifespan:**

15 years

## **Special Adaptations:**

Vibrant Array of colors,  
distinguishable from the purple roller by its long, straight tail.  
Semi hooked beak.

## **IUCN Conservation Status:**

Least Concern

