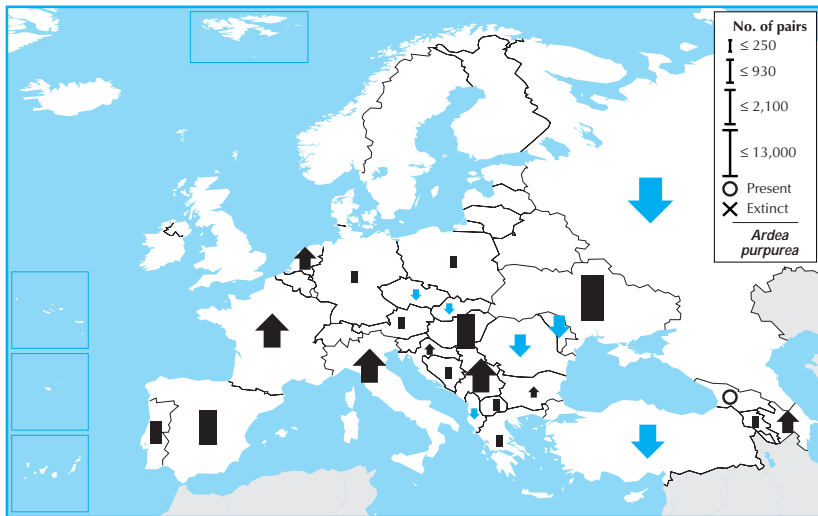


# *Ardea purpurea* PURPLE HERON

**SPEC 3** (1994: 3) **Status** (Declining)  
**Criteria** Moderate continuing decline  
**European IUCN Red List Category** —  
**Criteria** —  
**Global IUCN Red List Category** —  
**Criteria** —



*Ardea purpurea* is a widespread summer visitor to much of the southern half of Europe, which accounts for less than a quarter of its global breeding range. Its European breeding population is relatively small (<42,000 pairs), and underwent a large decline between 1970–1990. Although many populations—notably those in western and central Europe—were stable or increased during 1990–2000, the species continued to decline in several eastern European countries, and underwent a moderate decline (>10%) overall. Consequently, it is provisionally evaluated as Declining.



Country	Breeding pop. size (pairs)	Year(s)	Trend	Mag. %	References
Albania	0 – 10	96–02	–	>80	4
Armenia	80 – 330	98–02	0	0–19	
Austria	<b>200 – 300</b>	98–02	<b>0</b>	<b>0–19</b>	
Azerbaijan	250 – 500	96–00	+	0–19	
Bosnia & HG	(4 – 5)	90–00	(0)	(0–19)	
Bulgaria	<b>100 – 190</b>	95–02	+	>80	
Croatia	140 – 150	02	+	30–49	70,25
Czech Rep.	1 – 5	00	–	<b>50–79</b>	
France	<b>2,000 – 2,200</b>	97–00	+	<b>10–19</b>	4
Georgia	Present	03	?	–	
Germany	<b>21 – 34</b>	95–99	0	<b>0–19</b>	
Greece	(105 – 150)	95–00	(0)	(0–19)	
Hungary	<b>900 – 1,500</b>	98–01	0	0–19	
Italy	1,800 – 2,000	03	+	10–19	6
Macedonia	5 – 10	90–00	(F)	(30–49)	
Moldova	250 – 350	90–00	–	20–29	
Netherlands	<b>370 – 445</b>	98–00	+	55	1
Poland	0 – 3	90–00	0	<b>0–19</b>	3
Portugal	<b>350 – 500</b>	02	0	<b>0–19</b>	
Romania	(850 – 1,000)	00–02	(–)	(0–19)	
Russia	(10,000 – 15,000)	90–00	(–)	(20–29)	8,60,112,114,120
Serbia & MN	1,100 – 1,300	00–02	+	10–19	163,65,67,115,145,230,138
Slovakia	<b>20 – 60</b>	80–99	–	30–49	
Spain	2,000 – 2,000	98–02	(F)	(–)	10
Turkey	1,500 – 2,000	01	–	20–29	
Ukraine	6,700 – 11,900	90–00	0	0–19	
<b>Total (approx.)</b>	<b>29,000 – 42,000</b>				
<b>Breeding range</b>	<b>&gt;1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup></b>				
		<b>Overall trend</b>	Moderate decline		
		<b>Gen. length.</b>	5	<b>% Global pop.</b>	5–24

<b>2000 population</b>	38	49	13	
<b>1990 population</b>	95			5
	Data quality (%) – <i>Ardea purpurea</i>			
	□ unknown □ poor ■ medium ■ good			
<b>1990–2000 trend</b>	44	46	10	
<b>1970–1990 trend</b>	6	92		
<b>2000 population</b>	7	52	41	
<b>1990 population</b>	17	81		
	Data quality (%) – <i>Ardea cinerea</i> (see p. 46, top)			
	□ unknown □ poor ■ medium ■ good			
<b>1990–2000 trend</b>	10	49	41	
<b>1970–1990 trend</b>	3	37	58	