



Migrant
Watch

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MigrantWatch is a unique project in which volunteers from across the country collect information on the timing of migration of birds between the Palaearctic region (the northern part of Eurasia) and India. The goal of MigrantWatch is to describe the timing of bird migration and to assess changes in timing that are expected to accompany climate change. It is the largest study of bird migration in India.

Climate Change and Bird Migration

Long distance migration of birds, like other natural seasonal phenomena, is affected by the environment. Significant changes in migratory patterns have been documented for many bird species in various parts of the world and these changes appear to be largely driven by climate change. Documenting such changes is important to understand the implications of climate change for the survival of migratory species.

How to Watch Migrants

Migratory bird species that spend the winter in India typically begin to arrive in July/August and depart in March/April. To participate in MigrantWatch, simply keep a regular watch for one or more migratory species in places where you live, work, or visit regularly, and note the dates of first and last sighting during the migration season.

It's Easy to Participate!

Please visit the MigrantWatch website and register. You can then submit your data using a simple online data entry form or a hard copy of the form (available on the website). The form asks for basic information on the location of observations, the date on which you first saw the species in the season (first sighting) and the date beyond which you did not see the species (last sighting). Help in identifying some common and widespread migrant species is also available. Data submitted to MigrantWatch are completely open access through the website. Anyone is permitted to download, analyse and publish the data.

For more information contact:

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Citizen science involves volunteers across the world working in collaboration with scientists to gather information for scientific studies of many kinds. Such contributions are particularly important as the world goes through a period of extremely rapid climate change, and we are struggling to understand the consequences of these changes. Few coordinated citizen science activities exist in India, so you can make a huge difference by participating!

Photo: Sudhir Shivaram

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