Bird migration and climate

Long-distance migratory birds, such as this barn swallow *Hirundo rustica*, are responding to climate change by earlier arrival at the breeding grounds in the spring.

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SPECIALS of Climate Research (CR) present important new information on climate phenomena measured and assessed by closely coordinated group efforts. They concentrate on specific research themes or geographic areas.

CR SPECIAL 17 looks at the effects of climate variation and change on different aspects of bird migration. Since the phenology of bird migration is linked to the timing of the onset of spring and fall, when the climate changes, it is likely that bird migration will be affected in one way or another.

When the Nordic Centre of Excellence (Eco Clim-NCoE; see http://www.cees.no/ecoclim/) was established in 2003, the study of the effect of climate variation and change on bird migration was one of the focal topics. Using monitoring data from bird observatories, 3 Nordic countries then joined forces to study how climate variation has affected the timing of bird migration, with the assumption that this would help prepare us for some of the consequences of climate change.

The editors' first joint paper (Jonzén et al. 2006) was widely discussed in the scientific literature (Both 2007, Jonzén et al. 2007; for full references see Jonzén et al. 'Introduction', this issue, p. 1–3) and at scientific meetings. This Special Issue of Climate Research is a response to the interest that was generated.

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