

# World Migratory Bird Day

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

*Theme: “Water: Sustaining Bird Life”*

Migratory Bird Day is an annual global campaign to raise awareness about migratory birds, the need for their conservation, and the importance of the preservation of their habitat.

This year the theme focuses on “*Water: Sustaining Bird Life*”. Water is considered as a central part of life on our planet. The vast majority of migratory birds rely on aquatic ecosystems during their life cycles. They sustain their long journeys through inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, marshes, and ponds. But in recent years aquatic ecosystems are becoming increasingly threatened around the world and so are the migratory birds that depend on them.

The increasing demand for water by humans, as well as pollution and climate change, are some of the reasons for the direct impact on the availability of clean water and the conservation status of many migratory birds.

## Ways to Conserve Migratory Birds

- **Eliminate pesticides:** Avoid using pesticides, even those that are not directly toxic to birds may pollute waterways and it may decrease insects that migratory birds rely on for food.
- **Create backyard habitat:** Create a diverse landscape by planting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs that attract native birds and this will help in having fewer insects pests as a result.



- **Keeping cats indoors:** According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, cats kill an estimated 2.4 billion wild birds in the United Nations each year. In order to conserve migratory birds, it is encouraged to keep cats indoors during migration.
- **Turning off lights at night:** Migratory birds usually migrate at night and bright lights can disorient them, which can cause migrating birds to veer into buildings or stray from the correct migration route.

## Types of migration

- ◆ **Altitudinal migration:** Altitudinal migration occurs in mountainous regions. Many birds inhabiting the mountain peaks migrate to the lowlands during winter. Birds migrate either in flocks or in pairs. Swallows and storks migrate a distance of 9650 km from northern Europe to South Africa. Ruffs breed in Siberia and travel to Great Britain, Africa, India, and Ceylon thus traveling a distance of 9650 km.
- ◆ **Partial migration:** Partial migration is a type of migration when only several members of a group take part in the migration.
- ◆ **Total migration:** When all the members of a species take part in the migration, it is called total migration.
- ◆ **Seasonal migration:** Some birds migrate at different seasons of the year for food or breeding called seasonal migration. For instance, cuckoos, swifts, swallows, etc. They migrate from the south to the north during summer. They are called summer visitors. Birds like snow bunting, red wing, and grey plover, migrate from north to south during winter. They are known as winter visitors.



## Factors related to the problems of migration

- **Scarcity of food and day length:** Scarcity of food, shortening of daylight, and increase of cold are believed to stimulate migration. Migration in birds depends upon two important factors- stimulus and guidance.
- **Seasonal variation:** The north-to-south migration of birds take place under stimulus from the internal condition of the gonads which are affected by seasonal variations.
- **Instinct and gonadal changes:** It is widely accepted that the impulse to migrate in birds is possibly instinctive and the migration towards the breeding grounds is associated with gonadal changes.
- **Fat deposition:** Fat deposition plays an important role in the migration of birds. Birds, that migrate a long distance, reserve enough fat which provides energy in their arduous journey and helps the birds to reach their destination.



**Did you Know?**

**The biggest roosting site for Amur Falcon in India is Nagaland.**



## About Nagaland Migratory Bird: Amur Falcon

- Amur Falcon is a small size raptor from Falcon family, breeds from Siberia and Northern China.
- They migrate to the warmer climate of the Southern part of Africa via India every year.
- Amur Falcon is one of the biggest bird migrations in the world.
- North Eastern part of India, especially in Nagaland, Manipur, and Assam witnessed the migration of Amur Falcon every year.

### • DID YOU KNOW?



Amur Falcons are the longest travelling raptors in the world.

## Significant of Amur Falcon

- Amur Falcon are small in size but they are considered as some of the strongest fliers in the animal kingdom.
- They make a roundtrip of at least 20,000 km every year.
- In North East India, Amur falcon usually come to areas in and around the Doyang river dam in Pangti village in the Wokha district., Nagaland. These birds come in large numbers to roost and the area is aptly named Amur Falcon Roosting Area Union.
- In Manipur, they make Tamenglong district their home for a few weeks and Dima Hasao district in Assam.

