



## Time to Fly: Exploring Bird Migration

By Jim Flegg

British Trust for Ornithology, United Kingdom, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 3rd Revised edition. 243 x 167 mm. Language: N/A. Brand New Book. There are millions of birds on the move to, from and through Britain and Ireland in every month of the year. In August, for instance, Swifts are leaving for southeast Africa, the first Lapwings are arriving from Russia and Arctic Terns can be seen flying south, on their way from Scottish islands to Australia and the Antarctic Ocean. By September, the first Redwings and Fieldfares will have arrived, Swallows will be drifting south and Twite will be leaving Yorkshire moorland to spend the winter on east coast estuaries. In Time to Fly, the author Dr. Jim Flegg OBE, former Director of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and a ringer of over 30,000 birds, captures the magic of migration among the birds in seven familiar habitats. He investigates when, why and how this frenetic activity takes place and the hazards that migrants may encounter on their often prodigious travels. Nearly one hundred maps illustrate the migratory journeys of birds as diverse as Manx Shearwaters and Chaffinches, House Martins and Cuckoos. Time to Fly is a fascinating read...



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Bird migration is the regular seasonal movement, often north and south along a flyway, between breeding and wintering grounds. Many species of bird migrate. Migration carries high costs in predation and mortality, including from hunting by humans, and is driven primarily by availability of food. It occurs mainly in the northern hemisphere, where birds are funneled on to specific routes by natural barriers such as the Mediterranean Sea or the Caribbean Sea. As *In Our Time* explores how even tiny songbirds are able to travel thousands of miles to warmer climes each year, here are some fascinating revelations from the programme.

1. The ancient Greeks thought birds turned into fish over the winter. Past societies developed a range of weird and wonderful explanations for birds' annual disappearance. When scientists crossbred birds with different migratory routes, the offspring followed a path halfway between those of their parents. The Canadian birds fly most of the way to sub-Saharan Africa non-stop over the open ocean.
2. If they lose their sense of smell, birds can no longer navigate. Research into homing pigeons shows that without their sense of smell, they stop being able to find their way back to their home loft.

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