

# preserve *the* earth



D-CRAIG

2014

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conservation of migratory birds 2014



## Why do birds matter?

As pollinators, predators and prey, migratory birds keep Earth's **ecosystems** in balance.

As harbingers, they warn of **habitat**, climate and **environmental changes** through their movements, their song and their demise.

As creatures of beauty, they contribute to **nature**-based tourism economies.

For centuries, humans have marveled at the ability of birds to fly thousands of kilometers across oceans, mountains and national borders.

Each year, the Arctic tern covers 70,000 kilometers from the Arctic to Antarctica and back. Weighing only 2 to 6 grams, the ruby-throated hummingbird can cross the Gulf of Mexico in 24 hours. The bar-headed goose may soar to 9,000 meters high. Twice a year, an estimated 50 billion birds undertake extensive journeys to breed and feed. Their intercontinental travels help to link changes in the world's interconnected ecosystems. Early migration

to catch early insects may indicate early warming. Sudden change in migration patterns may signal distress. Increasingly, migratory birds are threatened by disappearing or degraded habitats along their routes—also known as flyways. Their survival depends on international collaboration to ensure they have the natural resources they need to complete their annual journeys.



- 1 Great Blue Heron
- 2 European Bee-eater
- 3 Egrets
- 4 Pelican
- 5 Arctic Tern
- 6 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- 7 African Grey Parrot
- 8 Scarlet Tanager
- 9 Wilson's Warbler
- 10 Kestrel

