



In Search of Mountain Goats

by Monte Stiles



I remember that summers lasted forever when I was a child. Growing up on a small farm in the Emmett valley with my parents, two brothers, two sisters, two sets of grandparents, and one set of great grandparents around me, a summer's day for me was enough time to build a fort, climb a tree, catch a frog, go over the hill, wrestle the dog, water the calves, play Roy Rogers, eat warm cookies, pick tomato worms, pick blackberries with the same fingers, lick the purple off, lie in the shade, find shapes in clouds, and dream of being Jacques Cousteau, who I thought was really cool, even though I couldn't understand a word he said. Being an oceanographer like Jacques was my dream at age 6, but after quickly realizing that Emmett was NOT by the ocean, and that it was too far away for my mom to drive me there every day, I abandoned the idea in favor of being Roy Rogers. Although I didn't like the whole Dale Evans mushy thing, the prospect of packing a "piece", fighting the bad guys, and riding Trigger all day seemed like a perfect career choice for me (and strangely enough, not that far off from what I actually do now -- without the horse of course). Unfortunately, my Roy Rogers plan didn't work out either. I cried on the day that I realized this would never happen. When my mom asked me what was wrong, I told her that I wanted to be Roy Rogers but I couldn't. In my moment of despair, mom asked sympathetically, "Why in the world would you want to do that?"

Now at 52, I'm lucky if I have time to catch a single frog. Time goes so fast. Everyone says it -- older people for certain, but also my adult kids and teenagers I know. When I asked a 15-year-old recently if time seemed to go fast, their first response was, "Not school!" But when questioned further, the youth observed, "Well, short things go slow (like class), but days go fast," thereby confirming my suspicions.

Either the nature of time is changing or our CNN/MTV/IPOD world has our brains so tuned to a life-by-the-second existence that moments fly by without ever becoming a summer's day anymore. It seems that I go from my house to my car to my office to my car to my house to my bed, a total of 18 hours of non-stop action, and then just lie there, unable to sleep, wondering where the day went and if tomorrow will be the same.

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At this time of my life, the closest I come to an endless summer's day is when I have a camera in my hand. After hectic weeks full of projects and deadlines, looking through a camera lens inspires me in ways that are hard to explain. Instead of my normal day of rushing around, a camera coaxes me to slow down and enjoy life, to see the smile on a child's face, the beauty of a budding flower, the grace of a bird in flight, the majesty of an elk silhouetted against a setting sun, the grandeur of sunrise on granite peaks, the infinity of stars. More than anything, photography allows me to recapture the sense of wonder I experienced every day as a child, when my mind was endlessly inquisitive and impressionable, eager to learn new things, a time when I could find magic in everything, and before my mind was marinated in the culture of television, computers, cell phones, and honest work.

It is the quest to renew my childhood sense of wonder that drives me into the mountains. Camera in hand, I go to look, to smell, to touch, to feel, to hear and experience a place where the sound of footsteps on a carpet of pine needles provides the perfect medicine for my sometimes tired soul.

It was the search for one of these experiences that led me to Goat Lake at the end of August. My younger brothers Jeff and Lonnie, two nephews Jacob and Brian, my youngest son Chris and I hiked into Goat Lake in the Sawtooth Mountains at the end of the summer. Goat Lake is a beautiful body of water cradled by majestic peaks on the north end of the Sawtooth range. Getting there was an adventure, with a very steep 800 foot trail-less rise in elevation just prior to us reaching the lake's edge. With packs unpacked, tents set up, and lunch eaten, the boys quickly fished out their fishing poles and headed for the water. My goal in the meantime was to hike far above the shore to look for mountain goats to photograph.

Now, as I sit and remember the experience, it is cold and dark outside. The colors of fall have slowly fluttered away as each leaf has drifted to earth. Daylight savings has robbed me of sunshine as I drive home from work. A dusting of snow is on the mountains. Frost will be on the flowers in the front yard in the morning. But on that day, along the shores of Goat Lake, the sky was blue, the sun warm, the trees green, the water emerald.

Making a brief stop by the lake before my hike, I sat on a cliff and watched Chris, Brian, and Jacob in their obsession of catching and releasing the brightly colored trout that cruised the banks in search of a meal. The clarity of the water allowed me to observe these creatures swim lazily by, seemingly unconcerned about anything, but suddenly in a flash, rise like a rocket, breaking the still surface of the lake in order to snatch a tasty morsel that had unwisely come into contact with the water. These scaly lake inhabitants were also quick to follow a lure, a decision that often brought them briefly to the bank at the end of a line, gasping, thrashing, but quickly released, wagging back to the depths where they rejoined the fish cruise.

I noticed that every once in a while a grasshopper or other bug would launch itself skyward from the bank, only to plop on top of the water, sounding the dinner bell for the rainbows below. As I watched the occasional insect trapped and flailing on top of the water, I remembered my endless fascination with "water skippers" as a child. Water skippers are insects which have the uncanny ability to stand on top of the water on their widely spaced feet, like the pads of a lunar lander, each pad creating a small depression in the water's surface. This was magical in my young mind, and I spent many summer hours catching and releasing them along the ditch that ran through our pasture.

Only later did I learn about "surface tension", a curious phenomenon which allows a water skipper, or unfortunate grasshopper, to be suspended above the water. I now know that water molecules located under the surface attract, and are attracted to, other water molecules in a kind of atomic tug-of-war. At the surface however, each molecule is pulled from the bottom and sides, but not from the top. Consequently, the surface molecules pull harder to the sides, thus creating a "skin" which allows water skippers to skip across the top.

Knowing these facts makes it no less magical to me now.

When I eventually left my perch on the cliff, nephew Brian and I climbed to 9,300 feet where we could see six glacier-cold lakes at once. The beauty of it all was almost more than my senses could absorb at one time. The experience reminded me of my friend Bob Erickson, whose motto went something like: "A little is good, more is better, and too much is about right." A fine motto to live by in my estimation.

(story continues on page 3)



Goat Lake: Monte Stiles photo

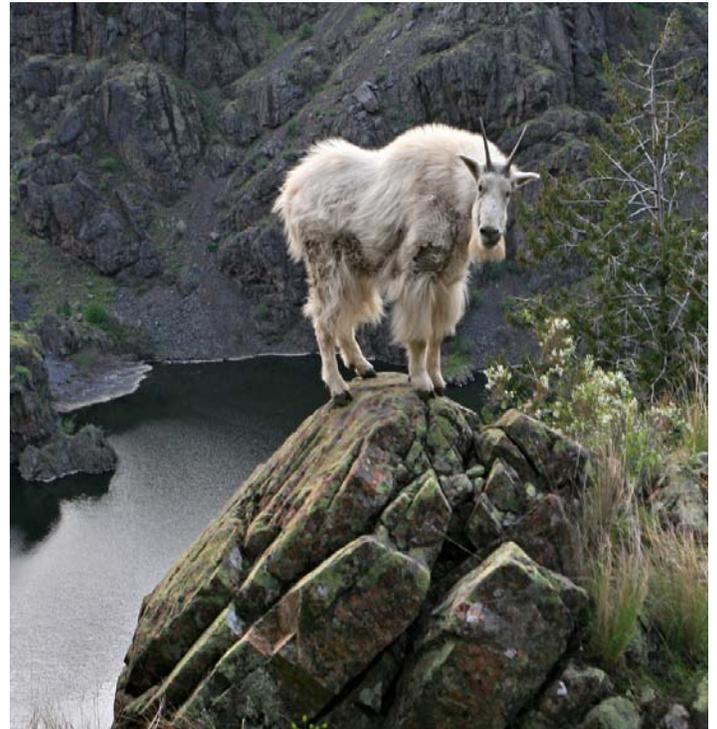
By dusk, having absorbed all the glory we could stand, Brian and I descended thankfully to camp, where our enthusiastic descriptions of high cliffs, mountain peaks, lakes, and green meadows resulted in others joining us the next morning along a similar route, where it was even sweeter because it was shared. On top of the mountains again, and for a moment, it was an endless summer's day. For awhile, the clocks stopped ticking, the world ceased revolving, and the setting sun was far in the future. "Life is good" I thought. And in the end, it was magical.

My hike into Goat Lake did not result in an encounter with a mountain goat, a picture of a goat, the smell of a goat, or even the sighting of goat droppings. In fact, it didn't result in any amazing wildlife pictures at all. In the end, I realized that my expectations about the trip were not met – they were exceeded – because my brothers, nephews, son and I had fun. Along the way we laughed a lot, got lost, explored, and sometimes reached the end of our physical strength. And through it all, we had the privilege of experiencing breathtaking scenery, and I came home energized. Isn't that what it's all about anyway?

(Editor note: Monte Stiles is a Federal Drug Prosecutor and an avid photographer. He started shooting about six years ago as a way to relax. To learn more about Monte and see his work, visit: <http://www.montestilesphotography.com>)



Monte Stiles climbing at Goat Lake



Mountain goat picture from another trip; Monte Stiles photo



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Fall Wildlife Events

Boise Watershed-

11818 West Joplin Rd., Boise; (208) 489-1284
www.cityofboise.org/Bee/WaterShed/Home/index.aspx

The Boise WaterShed is open every 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 am - 2 pm as part of the Watershed Weekend series. Join us for an outdoor walking tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 1 pm. FREE admission! No pre-registration required unless indicated.

Oct. 15 -Greening Your Halloween

Prepare for a "green" Halloween at the Boise WaterShed! From 10:00-1:00, the exhibit hall will be transformed into a spooky workshop. Join the ReUse Market in crafting costume components from recycled materials at our costume-making stations and get your face painted to transform your look. Wear a costume or your "new" creation in the costume parade led by Eddy Trout at 12:00. Then prepare to be frightened on a haunted wastewater tour! Tours depart at 12:30, 1:00 and 1:30. Tours limited to first 40 people, appropriate for ages 7 and up, closed-toe shoes required.

Nov. 19 -Get It Local

Did you know that most U.S. produce is picked 4 - 7 days before being placed on supermarket shelves, and is shipped nearly 1,500 miles before being sold? The distance is even longer for imported food. Join us to learn about the Treasure Valley's amazing local resources and how local purchases support a healthy community and economy. Join Treasure Valley Food Coalition at 10:30 a.m. and the Boise Co-op at 11:15 a.m. for two special presentations about the importance of buying from local and sustainable food sources and making better decisions next time you shop for food—including your Thanksgiving feast! In the exhibit hall, dine on free food samples while meeting and greeting local farmers and business owners who believe in the importance of getting it local.

Dec. 17- Green Christmas

During the holiday season, Americans will send nearly 2 billion holiday cards, use more than 38,000 miles of ribbon and leave millions of Christmas trees on the curb. Christmas is the most wonderful - and most wasteful - time of the year. With a little effort and imagination, you can help reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season. Come to the Boise WaterShed and discover how to recycle old holiday cards into new cards, sew a stocking or bag, and make beautiful ornaments and decorations from used, everyday household items. Note: No wastewater treatment plant tour today. This program is a continuation of the "I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas" program hosted by the Foothills Learning Center on December 10.

FREE SCHOOL BREAK PROGRAMS

Drop in to these fun all-ages programs offered on school break days! In addition to the exhibit hall, special activities and crafts will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon, with a presentation at 10:30 a.m. and a wastewater treatment plant tour at 11:00 a.m. Tour limited to 40 people, closed-toe shoes required, no strollers. FREE admission! Community groups, home schools and Mom's clubs welcome! No pre-registration required.

October 6 – Extreme Weather

Explore extreme weather in this fun hands-on program! From 10:00 a.m. to noon, make and take your own weather instruments such as rain gauges and anemometers. Create a mini tornado and see how floods occur using a model. At 10:15, join NOAA National Weather Service for an exciting opportunity to learn how the pros forecast weather, see weather demonstrations, and play a jeopardy game!

October 7 – River Rangers

Discover who lives in and around the Boise River! From 10:00-noon in the exhibit hall, examine living caddisflies, mayflies, worms, leeches and more from the Boise River! Make and take home a fish print and an eco-art water bug. At 10:15 learn about the importance of salmon in an interactive lesson and stay to play the Macroinvertebrate Mayhem game!

Thanksgiving Break - November 21-23

Join us in the exhibit hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon to create beautiful Fall and Thanksgiving crafts for all ages.

Winter Break - December 19-23

Get in the holiday spirit from 10:00 a.m. to noon to make winter and snow-themed crafts for all ages. Note: no wastewater tours this week.

21st Annual Coeur d'Alene BLM Eagle Watch at Wolf Lodge Bay

(208) 769-5048;

www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/coeur_d_alene.html

Dec. 26- Jan 1; 10am-3pm

For the over 20 years the BLM, Idaho Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service, and Coeur d'Alene Audubon have been celebrating the arrival of large numbers of bald eagles on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Eagles begin to trickle in from Canada and Alaska around the middle of November. Their numbers will steadily grow until they peak right around the Holidays. Eagle Watch is great opportunity to see these beautiful raptors up close and learn about their habits. Two interpretive sites will have telescopes, publications, and mounted specimens of eagles

and osprey. Interpreters will be on hand to answer your questions and our scopes provide a wonderful up close view of bald eagles as they feast on the spawning kokanee salmon. From Interstate 90 east of Coeur d'Alene, take the Wolf Lodge Bay Exit (Highway 97) and head south. You can't miss the big blue canopy at the Mineral Ridge Boat Launch. For more information contact: Carrie Hugo 208-769-5048.



Eagle watching: Scott Robinson. BLM photo

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

18 miles southwest of Arco, on Hwy. 20/26/93; (208) 527-1300 ; <http://www.nps.gov/crmo/>

A Trip to the Moon: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the hour, 25 minutes; Visitor Center

Part of the award-winning Outdoor Idaho series, this film provides an excellent introduction to the natural and cultural history of the Monument.

Among the Craters of the Moon: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the half-hour, 17 minutes; Visitor Center

Created in 2005 by documentary film-maker Steve Wursta, this is a shortened version of an hour long presentation about the fascinating life and adventures of explorer and park-founder, Robert Limbert.

Patio Talks: Daily at 3 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturdays; 15 min.; Visitor Center

Enjoy a short presentation on the visitor center plaza. Check at the visitor center for topics.

Cave Walks: Daily at 1 p.m. and 9 a.m. Saturdays; 1½ hours, 1 mile; Caves Area trailhead

Follow the trail through seas of ropy lava into the strange underground world of a lava tube. Wear sturdy close-toed shoes, bring a flashlight, and a cave permit.

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Fall Wildlife Events cont...

Deer Flat NWR

13751 Upper Embankment Rd. Nampa; (208) 467-9278; www.fws.gov/deerflat

All events are held at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Visit www.fws.gov/deerflat or contact 208-467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov for more information.

Wildlife about Life Lecture Series:

Oct. 11- 7pm; A Peek Into the Life of Someone Who Studies Life.

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Biologist will share why he chose this profession and some research projects he has been involved with ranging from invertebrates to mountain lions. Addison Mohler, Deer Flat NWR.

Nov. 8- 7pm; Naked Canaries: An Exploration of the Beauty and Biology of Amphibians

Enjoy a photographic exploration of the beauty and biology of amphibians, the causes of their declines and their message for us all. Dr. John Cossel, Associate Professor of Biology, Northwest Nazarene University.

Dec. 13-7pm; Insects as Indicators of a Healthy Ecosystem

Discover the effects of fire disturbance and rehabilitation treatments on insect communities in sagebrush-steppe habitats. Ashley Rohde, BSU Graduate Student.

Creepy Critter Encounters- Oct. 29, 4-6pm

Ghosts and ghouls are invited to Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Lowell for some spooky fun at Creepy Critter Encounters. Join wild creatures on this moonlit evening for a slightly scary adventure. There will be activities for kids of all ages, including the chance to see a live owl, reptiles, and insects. Create your own trick or treat bag, learn about creatures of the refuge on a spooky hike, and listen to spooky stories.. Stay until sunset to hoot for owls and howl for coyotes. Come in costume for a special treat!

Scout Day

Take a hike! Make a nature craft! Earn a badge! Scout day is an opportunity to meet other scouts, have fun, and earn wildlife badges for girl scouts or cub scouts. Scout Day is held October through May, usually on the first Saturday of each month.

Saturday, Nov. 5, 1-3 PM

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-3 PM

Hibernate, Migrate, or Insulate Winter Day Camp

Dec 28-29, 1-4pm both days

Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do bears have space heaters? Do geese eat at restaurants? Then how do they survive the challenges of winter? Children in second through fourth grades are invited to attend this two-day, interactive winter day camp. Must pre-register.

MK Nature Center

600 S. Walnut St., Boise; (208) 334-2225; <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/mknc/>

Dec. 3; 9am-4pm; Bird Seed Sale

The MK Nature Center will host its fifth annual bird seed sale with proceeds from this event to benefit educational programs at the Nature Center. Once again the Nature Center will be partnering with Wild Birds Unlimited. Locally-preferred seed will be available in small to large bags. The MK Nature Center Gift shop will have many nature themed holiday items for purchase as well.

In Keeping with the Idaho Department of Agriculture's efforts to stop the spread of noxious weeds, the sale will feature safe, noxious weed-free seed. For more information please contact Sue Dudley at 208-287-2900.

The World Center for Birds of Prey

5668 W. Flying Hawk Lane; (208) 362-8687 (208) 769-5000; www.peregrinefund.org

October Frequent Fliers

Watch falcons, hawks, and eagles display their amazing flight skills outdoors at 1:30 p.m. (weather permitting) Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in October.

Special price for families!

A discounted admission package for families will be offered for the Oct. 6-9 shows. Two adults and two children will be admitted for \$14, a savings of up to \$10.

Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society- www.cdaaudubon.org

You do not need to be a member or advanced birder to attend any of the field trips. Guests are always welcomed!

Participants should contact the trip leader at least 24 hours in advance of the field trip to find out if the meeting place/time or destination has been changed. Participants will share in a mileage reimbursement for the driver.

Oct. 22- East Side Lake Coeur d'Alene and Hwy 3 Field Trip

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Target birds: Loons and other waterfowl, with a stop at Karen William's property. We will return via Highway 3 and time permitting stop at Medimont, Schlepp Ranch and Rose Lake. Karen says she will serve tea and crumpets. Bring a lunch and water and be prepared for cool weather.

Nov. 5- Mineral Ridge Field Trip

Leader: Janet Callen, 664-1085

Meet: Fernan Ranger Station

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Hike the trail, and look for waterfowl in Wolf Lodge and Beauty Bay. This will be a half-day trip.

Palouse Audubon Society-

www.palouseaudubon.org

You do not need to be a member or advanced birder to attend any of the field trips. Guests are always welcomed!

Oct. 8, 15, 22 & 29- Mann Lake Field Trip

Field trip leaders and participants are to meet at the Mann Lake boat ramp at 8:30 am. There will be someone there to help answer any identification questions. This is a great time of year to observe migrants at the lake. Observations at the lake are generally 2 hours in length - perfect for those who can't spare a whole day! Directions: THE URBAN ROUTE (Powers Avenue): From the north end of Lewiston, follow US 12 south into town, stay left at the first light and cross the Clearwater River on Memorial Bridge. The left lane directs you up 21st Street at the next light. Follow it up the hill, through the Lewiston Orchards until it turns into a 2-lane road. Turn left on Powers Avenue and follow it all the way to the grain towers and the main parking lot at the lake. ID DeLorme 54, A-1. Contact Terry Gray at (208) 882-1585 with any questions. You do not need to be an Audubon member to participate.

Nov. 16- 7.30pm; Canada Lynx; Grant Glover, Masters student, Large Carnivore Conservation Lab, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University.

The Large Carnivore Conservation Lab is an academic research unit that conducts field research on the ecology of large carnivores and their prey. Its mission is to research and help maintain viable, sustainable, large carnivore populations and predator-prey communities in the US, Canada, and world wide. The Lab specializes on sensitive, threatened, and endangered large mammals and the ecosystems in which they reside. Typical species studied include grizzly bears, black bears, cougars, and lynx, and their prey: mountain caribou, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and snowshoe hares.

This meeting will be held at the 1912 Center, FISKE ROOM, 3rd and Adams, in Moscow.

Everyone is welcome.

(events continue on page 6)

Fall Wildlife Events cont...

Golden Eagle Audubon Society-
www.goldeneagleaudubon.org

You do not need to be a member to attend any of the field trips or attend the monthly lectures. Visitors are always welcomed!

Oct. 26- Monthly Lecture: Gardening for Wildlife

7pm at the MK Nature Center (600 S Walnut., Boise)

Michael Weigand will present a program on native plant gardening for wildlife habitat.

Oct. 29- CJ Strike Field Trip

Jay Carlisle will lead this trip to CJ Strike. Our first planned stop will be at Ted Trueblood WMA. Then we'll work our way toward C.J. Strike Dam, Jack's Creek WMA, & Bruneau Dunes if time permits. This will be an all day trip. Bring lunch, water, snacks, and wind protection. Be prepared for any kind of weather. Contact Pam Conley with questions (208-869-0337; pam_conley@q.com)

Nov. 12- Wilson Spring Ponds

Meet at 9 AM at the parking lot for the ponds located just south of 3101 South Powerline Road, in Nampa near the Idaho State Fish and Game headquarters. Two to three hours on a paved path. Wear walking shoes.

Dec. 6- Monthly Lecture: Noise Pollution

7pm at the MK Nature Center (600 S Walnut., Boise)

Dr. Jesse Barber, new professor of Boise State University, will present on how human noise affects birds and insects.

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Endangered Migrations

Are you starting to see some of your favorite birds leaving for their wintering grounds? As the seasons change, many bird species come and go in the natural phenomenon of migration. Today, scientists are just beginning to answer some of the most basic questions about migration. But a shadow hangs over their research: Many migratory birds—and other migratory animals—are in trouble.

MIGRATION BASICS

What is migration? Many creatures wander, but only some are true migrants. Most biologists define migration as repeated seasonal movement between breeding and non-breeding grounds by the same individuals.

How far do birds migrate? Thanks to tracking devices, we now know the astounding distances that some migrating species travel. For sheer distance, nothing beats migrating birds. Sooty shearwaters astonished scientists by flying more than 40,000 miles in a loop from New Zealand to Chile, Japan, Alaska and California before a trans-Pacific trip back to New Zealand. The birds averaged more than 200 miles per day for 200 days.

Longest Known Non-stop Bird Flight: The real migration champ was a bar-tailed godwit that flew 6,340 miles nonstop between New Zealand and North Korea, where it rested briefly before continuing nearly a thousand additional miles to its breeding grounds in Alaska.

HOW DO BIRDS FIND THEIR WAY?

There are a range of techniques migrating birds use to navigate:

- * **Earth's magnetic field:** This was discovered by a series of experiments in the mid-1970s which reversed magnetic fields around songbirds, triggering them to fly the wrong direction. It is now known that some 50 species including birds follow magnetic pathways.
- * **Circadian clocks:** innate temporal rhythms in the biochemical, physiological or behavioral processes of all living things, from plants to birds
- * **Internal compasses:** Using the sun or stars as a compass to determine direction
- * **Smells:** Some birds, including pigeons, use olfactory clues to find their way.
- * **Geographical features** such as mountain ranges and coastlines. Most migrants seem to rely on a combination of these techniques depending on conditions.

WHY SCIENTISTS NEED TO UNDERSTAND MIGRATION

“The nonbreeding season drives a lot of what happens during rest of the annual cycle,” says Peter Marra, a research scientist at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center at the National Zoo. That cycle’s middle stages—the actual travel—remain terra incognita to scientists. The sheer number of habitats used at different points during migration presents a formidable challenge to conserving migratory birds.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO STUDY MIGRATION

The recently announced ICARUS Initiative will launch a satellite devoted to migratory animals and develop tiny, powerful transmitters that will allow researchers to follow creatures as small as insects across broad stretches of time and



WHAT ARE THE THREATS TO MIGRATORY BIRDS?

* **Habitat loss and degradation.** The habitats of migratory species nearly everywhere are under pressure from deforestation, farming and expanding human populations. Human-made obstacles also hinder travel. In many cities, skyscrapers, for example, kill migratory songbirds.

* **Global warming.** Researchers are reporting new behaviors among migratory animals worldwide that may stem from changing climate—shifts in breeding ranges, mistiming of cues and departures, for example. “Since the wintering habitats are changing at different rates than more northerly habitats, things can get really out of sync,” says the Smithsonian’s Marra.

Out of whack: In the Netherlands, some populations of pied flycatcher have crashed because the birds are arriving from African wintering grounds too late to feast on a once predictable bounty of caterpillars. Higher springtime temperatures in Europe are causing the insects to hatch earlier than they once did.

CAN MIGRANTS ADAPT?

No one knows. Recently, some birds have shown flexibility by changing routes or timing or breeding sites in response to new environmental conditions. In the Midwest, for instance, ducks are arriving later in the fall and resting longer before continuing south, perhaps in response to higher temperatures.

Along the east coast of Massachusetts, where temperatures are rising and the insects on which birds feed on hatching sooner, 8 of 32 migratory songbirds looked at have begun arriving earlier from their wintering grounds—primarily species that winter in the southern United States as opposed to farther away in the Tropics.

“But I think it would be dangerous to assume that all species can adapt,” says Princeton University ecologist David Wilcove. As Wilcove writes in his book *No Way Home: The Decline of the World’s Great Animal Migrations*, “The irony is that just as the phenomenon of migration is slipping away, we are entering a golden age for studying it.”

(National Wildlife Federation article adapted from “Perilous Journeys” by Steve Kemper, *National Wildlife*, October/November 2008)



Black-capped chickadee; iStock photo

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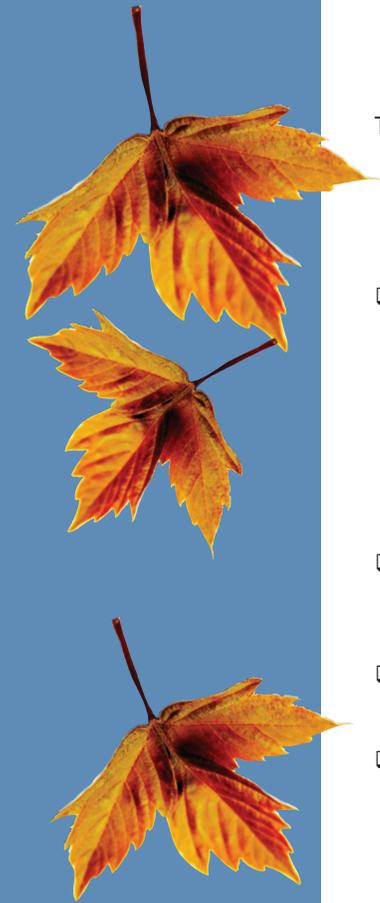
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