Weather surveillance radar perspectives on bird migration in the United States

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Showcasing the spectacle of bird migration

When, where, and how far will birds migrate? How many birds passed last night? Our tools help you explore the answers to these and many other questions about bird migration.

Learn how
2.9 billion birds gone since 1970

Migratory Birds

2.5 BILLION MIGRATORY BIRDS LOST SINCE 1970

2 IN 5 BALTIMORE ORIOLES LOST SINCE 1970

-28% POPULATION LOSS IN MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES SINCE 1970
All bird species

19% Migratory

North American bird species

70% Migratory

North American migratory birds

80% Migrate at night
Forecast Migration Maps

Night of September 25, 2022
687 million birds predicted
Generated 26 Sep 2022 at 00:00 UTC (25 Sep at 20:00 ET)

Bird migration forecast  Van Doren and Horton 2022

Live/Observed Migration Maps

25 September 2022 23:00 ET
880.0 million birds in flight

Live bird migration maps  DAKOTA 2022
Migration Dashboard

58,812,100
Birds crossed Arkansas this night (est.)  High
Starting: Sun, Sep 25, 2022, 7:00 PM CDT
Ending: Mon, Sep 26, 2022, 7:00 AM CDT
Learn more

Here's what happened across this night...

Birds in flight
- Sunday night, Sep 25 = Historic

Birds usually begin to migrate 30 to 45 minutes after sunset, with the greatest number in flight two to three hours later.

Flight direction and speed
- 00Z CDT

Birds tend to migrate southward in autumn, but seasonal timing, weather, and geography affect their flight directions and speeds.

Altitude
- 00Z CDT

Migrating birds regularly fly up to 10,000 feet above ground, although seasonal timing and weather conditions dramatically impact their distributions.

And so far this season...

Birds in flight (nightly avg.)
- Fall 2022 = Historic

During fall migration, most birds pass through the contiguous U.S. from early September through October.

Total birds crossed
- Fall 2022 = Historic

This is the estimated total number of birds that have fully crossed this region. The curve rises quickly during peak migration and levels off at the end of the season.

Expected nocturnal migrants

Nocturnally migrating species most likely to arrive or depart this region at this time of year, based on frequency of observations

- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Eastern Kingbird
- Nashville Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Hooded Warbler
- American Redstart
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

Powered by eBird
Lights Out Alerts: alert.birdcast.info/lightsout

Visit the CSU AeroEco Lab for state and national visualizations: aeroecolab.com/uslights
Timing of peak bird migration is advancing across the US, more rapidly at higher latitudes

Horton et al. 2019