

# MIGRATION STORIES

Ages 8+

## Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to:
  - describe a local migratory bird
  - describe its winter habitat
  - describe any migratory problems it may face.

**Summary:** Students will be asked to write about a bird that migrates to their country.

**Subject Areas:** Language arts, Science.

**Time:** 1 hour

## Materials

- Book or Identification chart of birds found in your area
- Paper and pencil

**Background:** Explain to the students that many factors limit the survival of populations of migrating birds. Some involve changes in wintering and nesting habitats. Sometimes there will be abundant food, water, shelter, and space suitably arranged to meet the habitat requirements of the birds. At other times, when the habitat is stressed, many factors limit the potential for survival. Sometimes the area of available habitat is reduced.

Some limiting factors are a natural and dynamic part of any environment. This is also true of factors favouring survival. However, the significant difference to the survival of populations of migrating shorebirds and aquatic birds seems to be the loss or degradation of huge areas of suitable habitat, much of it as a result of human intervention—such as draining of wetlands, destruction of nesting cover, and pollution of water supplies.



Not only does this occur in wintering and nesting areas, it also takes place on the flyways, where the birds are dependent on wetlands for “refueling” and resting stops.

### **Procedure**

1. Find out what migratory birds come to your city, town, or island.
2. Write a real or fictional story about the migratory route, populations, and habitat problems of one of these species.
3. Describe where you might find this bird in your country—what area and what kind of habitat it needs.

**Discussion/Reflection:** Have you seen this bird? Where would you go, and in what seasons, if you were this bird?

### **References**

- Mangrove Action Project, Marvellous Mangroves - A Wetlands Education Resource Book for the West Indies

