Earth's Migratory Bird Species

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

Migratory bird species illustrate the complexity of conservation challenges and protecting them requires safeguarding their entire annual cycle.

Bobolink (North America–South America)

- Breeds in North American grasslands, winters in South America.
- **Threats –** Disappearing grasslands, pesticide poisoning.
- **Lesson –** Breeding habitat protection alone is insufficient.

Newell's Shearwater (Pacific–Hawaii)

- Spends most of life over Pacific Ocean, breeds in Hawaii.
- **Threats –** Artificial lights, collisions with power lines, introduced predators (cats).
- **Lesson –** Conservation must address human-induced hazards at breeding sites.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Russia–Southeast Asia)

- Breeds in Chukotka Peninsula (Russia), migrates via tidal mudflats to Southeast Asia.
- Critically endangered; loss of even a few stopover mudflats jeopardises survival.
- **Lesson –** Protecting migratory staging areas is vital.

Conservation Measures

- **Integrated Strategy –** Requires cooperation across countries, habitats, and seasons.
- **Safeguarding Annual Cycle** - SafeBreeding grounds, migratory

stopovers, and non-breeding habitats, rather than focusing on a single location or threat, holistic development is necessary.
- **Threats –** Habitat loss, pollution, artificial infrastructure, predators, climate change.

Significance

- **Ecological –** Migratory birds maintain ecosystem balance (pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling).
- **Global Cooperation –** Conservation demands transboundary collaboration.

Reference

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