

Earth's Migratory Bird Species

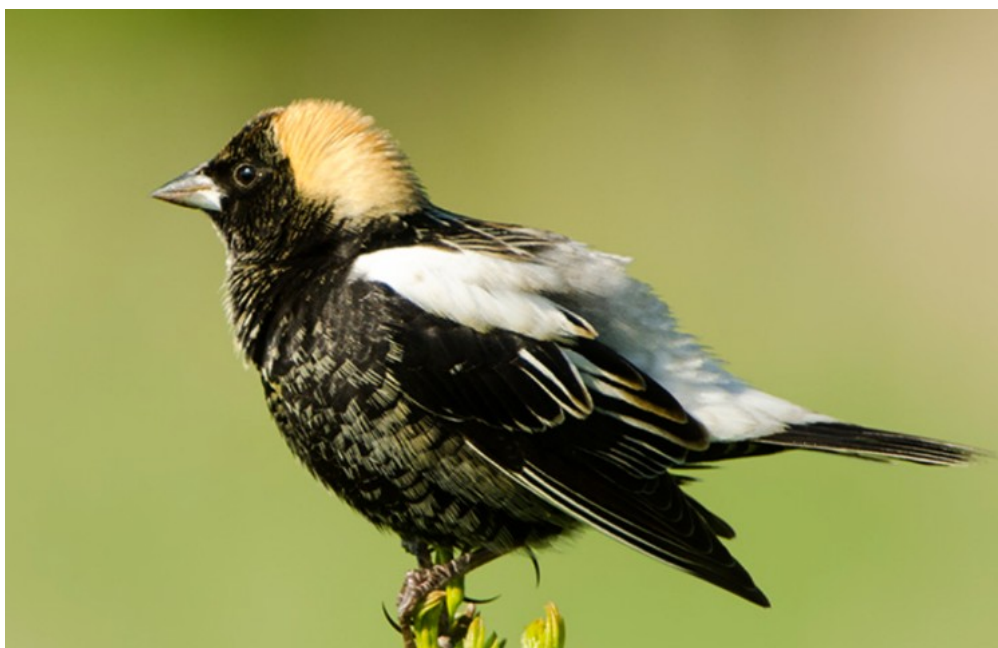
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Why in News?

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** - Safe Breeding 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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