



Birds and climate change

Møller, A. P., W. Fiedler, and P. Berthold, eds. 2006. Elsevier, Burlington, Massachusetts.

BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE presents 11 papers, incorporated as book chapters, by leading experts from Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States (Wisconsin). According to the editors, Peter Berthold and Wolfgang Fiedler (Max Planck Research Centre for Ornithology, Radolfzell, Germany) and Anders P. Møller (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Laboratoire de Parasitologie Evolutive, Paris, France), “the biology of birds has been more thoroughly investigated than that of any other group of organisms.” Birds are excellent model organisms because of their very active metabolism, high mobility, and sensitivity to environmental changes. Therefore, in the early 1990s, birds became pioneer indicators of changes related to global warming. In the past 15 years investiga-

tors have accumulated such a large amount of data that the Laboratoire de Parasitologie Evolutive, Max Planck Research Centre for Ornithology, University of Constance, and European Science Foundation hosted a special symposium, “Bird Migration in Relation to Climate Change,” in which participants could discuss research results and status. *Birds and Climate Change* is essentially the proceedings of this 2003 symposium. Topics include the effects of climate change on arrival and departure dates; migratory fueling; migrating birds (using large-scale data from banded or ringed birds); breeding dates and reproductive performance; avian reproduction; photoperiodic response and the adaptability of avian life cycles; microevolutionary response; avian population dynamics; and ranges, communities, and conservation of birds. Additionally papers discuss future research challenges and long-term studies that investigate responses to climate change.