

# Migratory Birds



## Sprig Tales Newsletter

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Every year, like clockwork, several bird species take to the skies to find greener pastures. Birds migrate for many reasons, so check out the article on page 2 to learn more!

### **Fun Facts!**



Many migratory birds fly in a formation to conserve energy.

Some birds migrate with different species.

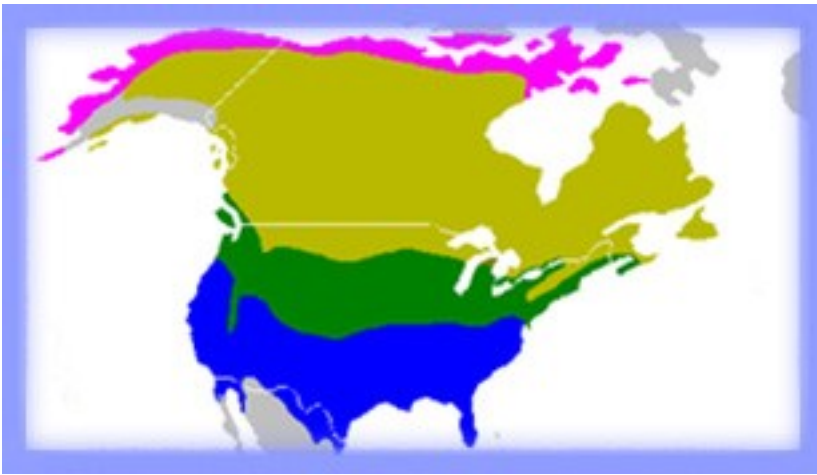


Resident birds are birds that stay in one region and do not migrate.



# To Greener Pastures

There are many reasons to move and, since birds can travel vast distances better than your average land animal, they take advantage of this opportunity. The most common reason



Migratory Bird Patterns

Yellow: Summer Grounds. Green: Year-Round.

Blue and Pink: Winter Grounds (multiple species)

to migrate among birds is to find suitable breeding grounds and food to raise young. Here in California we can witness several geese flying high above to find breeding grounds in places like Alaska and Canada as summer approaches. However as the cold settles back in, they escape by flying south for warmer climates as far south as Mexico. Another advantage to raising young in these areas is the lack of predators. Here chicks can grow in safety, before winter arrives and they are forced to leave.

However, not all birds migrate for breeding. Birds also migrate to escape seasonal changes, to escape cold or heat. A lack of food or no access to food in frozen waters will start migrations as well.

Whatever the reason, migration is a difficult process. Things like weather, energy and finding rest stops become important when traveling. A bad storm can send flocks of birds in the wrong direction, and lack of rest stops can exhaust birds quickly. That is why for many people the restoration of wetlands is so important. These places provide food, nesting and social habitat and a place to rest for many exhausted birds.



Canada geese and chicks in summer breeding grounds.





# Modes of Flight

All birds do not fly alike. There are many different styles used by different species to get where they need to go. Have you noticed this whenever a bird flutters by overhead? See if you can match flying style to the correct species!

Powered Flight  
-Countinuous Flapping-



Gliding  
-Soar on the winds-



Bounding Flight  
-Up and Down and Up-



Red-Tailed Hawk



Sparrow



Canada Geese

Answers are on the back



# Bird Watching

You can observe the movement of birds every year! While there are many types of birds that travel, the easiest one to spot is the Canada Goose!

## Materials:

While you don't need anything to go bird watching, some handy things to have are binoculars and a field guide.

Canada Geese can easily be identified from their black necks and white chin strap..

Geese can be seen traveling north to summer grounds late winter and early spring.

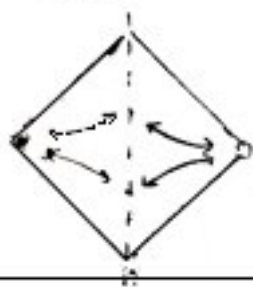
By late summer and early fall, Geese can be seen flying South to winter grounds.



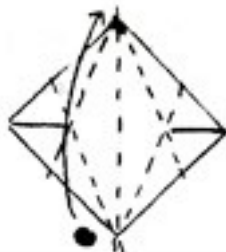
## Bird Crafts Swan

**Materials:**  
All you really need is a square piece of paper!

1. With a crease in the middle, fold the points slightly above the center as marked



2. Fold towards the point, however only make creases along the black lines.  
3. Pull in the the folded edges and push them together.



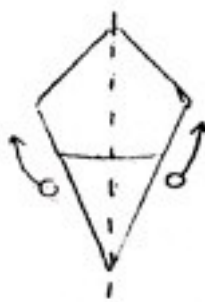
4. Fold down the back flap down.



5. Make creases on the top half in the shape of a triangle.  
6. Then 'open' up the two flaps, which will pull the bottom half, forming a pentagon.



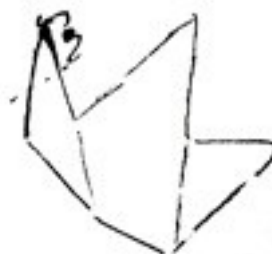
7. Fold in half so that the crest on top



8. Create the wings by folding the back flaps upward.  
9. Create the neck by Reverse folding the left tip.



10. Reverse fold the neck again to create the head.



11. Prop it up and you have a swan!

