

Commemorating World Migratory Bird Day 2024

# Migratory Birds: The Societal Impact

## Biogeography of Bird Migration

Prof. Sandun Perera

*BSc (SUSL), MSc (Kelaniya), PhD in Environmental Science (UKZN, South Africa)*

*Professor in Biogeography and Environmental Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, Faculty of Applied Sciences, SUSL*



The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May (in Spring) and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October (in fall), aligning with the cyclic nature of bird migration in different hemispheres. The fact that it is celebrated on different days in different parts of the world itself highlights the necessity of understanding the geography of this fascinating behavior. This year, it is celebrated under the theme “Protect Insects, Protect Birds”, with an emphasis on the importance of insects as an essential food source for migratory birds, which again emphasizes the ecological biogeographic drivers of bird migration. The talk will introduce the ecological and historical biogeography of the avian migration we experience in Sri Lanka linking this interesting phenomenon to its immense cultural as well as conservation value.

## Socio-economic Benefits of Migratory Birds and Ecotourism

Mrs. Indrachapa Weerasingha

*B.A. (Honors) (Kelaniya), M.A. (Kelaniya), MTEHM (UoC),*

*Lecturer in Tourism & Cultural Resource Management, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya.*



Bird migration is a natural phenomenon which occurs due to the unfriendly geological atmosphere of the winter regions in the world. Being an island in Indian subcontinent, the geological positioning of Sri Lanka invites the migratory birds to spend their challenging period in the environmentally rich eco systems stretching from the coastal line to the central highlands of the island. The extreme value of this phenomenon has not yet been explored by the Sri Lankan tourism industry, especially in the niche tourism product of ecotourism. This is an effort to explore the current situation of migratory bird watching in tourism in Sri Lanka and to identify the potentials, socio-economic benefits and challenges in promoting migratory bird watching as a recreational activity in ecotourism in the country.

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 | 4.30 PM**

Hybrid mode At SLAAS headquarters and via Zoom

### Zoom meeting information

Meeting ID: 971 9456 5405 | Passcode: iDTDS@03

or scan the QR code



SLAAS

