
Preface

This volume on the biological consequences of climate change in a particular class of animals, the birds, grew out of a long-term interest in the consequences of changing environmental conditions for all living beings. Since the seminal paper published by one of us (Peter Berthold) in 1991, this field has grown tremendously in importance. The number of papers dealing with climate change and birds is now more than 2800, and the total number of papers in this field exceeds 68,000. No single person can thus attempt to cover this rapidly expanding area. Hence, we have opted for an edited volume that brings together world experts to review the current level of knowledge, while simultaneously listing alternative hypotheses and weak points in current research. We strongly believe that this is the way forward.

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