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Birds and Climate Change

Temperature and other climate variables are currently changing at a dramatic rate. As observations have shown, these climatic changes have serious consequences for all organisms and their ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Birds are excellent model organisms: they have a very active metabolism, they are highly sensitive to environmental changes, and, as highly mobile creatures, they are also extremely reactive. *Birds and Climate Change* discusses our current knowledge of observed changes and provides guidelines for future studies, so we can document and understand how patterns of changing weather conditions may affect birds.

Front cover: European Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) breed in the Mediterranean and Caspian region and winter in subSaharan Africa. In warmer time periods they expand their breeding range considerably northwards, and recently breeding pairs even occurred in Southern Scandinavia. Photo: Axel Kottal.



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