

# Examine How Global Climate Change is Affecting the Migration Routes, Timing, and Behaviours of Various Animal Species

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## **ABSTRACT**

The ecological systems are being transformed radically on account of climatic change, with the movement of animals being one of the most noticeably disturbed phenomena. Changes in temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, and climatic extremes alter the timing, path and patterns of the behaviour of migratory species across taxes. In this research work, stochastic nonlinear modeling will be deployed in the attempt of examining the effects of environmental noise and bifurcations in climate variables, as well as threshold dynamics on the animal migration patterns. By combining climate models with field-based telemetry and behavioral data we also show that migration patterns are growing more erratic, being altered to more Department and pole-ward or high altitude destinations and that the traditional behavioral cues are being subsumed by the climate variability. Stochastic differential equations modeling system forming consideration of nonlinear multiplicative-noise interactions and delayed feedback are established to model migration thresholds in response to altering environmental forcing. The simulation results are corroborated with the telemetry data belonging to Arctic terns, monarch butterflies, and caribou, which show that the variability of migratory timing and the bifurcation point of migration routes is uplifted. Such results may imply a new regime of an already changing ecology, in which significant changes in climatic variables trigger enhanced biological response as an equivalent of a stochastic resonance. The results in our analysis offer a window to understanding how uncertainties driven by climate transfer through ecological systems providing the basis of predictive conservation modelings and adaptive management of ecological systems.

**Keywords:** Climate change, animal migration, stochastic differential equations, bifurcation theory, ecological modeling, migration behavior, nonlinear systems, telemetry, large fluctuations, stochastic resonance.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the emblematic problems of the 21 st century and its impacts on ecosystems, distribution patterns, and ecological relationships are far-reaching. Disruption of animal migration that is a complex adaptive behavioral response that has been designed to maximize survival and reproduction is one of the most noticeable and ecologically important effects of global warming. Migration enables the species to make use of the seasonal resources, to escape undesirable conditions of the environment and to have an ecological equilibrium. Nevertheless, the previously unknown rate of anthropogenic climate change is altering the timing (phenology), pathways and behavioral patterns of these movements with knock-on impacts on food webs. Recent reports suggest that migratory species are currently undergoing significant changes in spatiotemporal patterns of movements. Migratory birds, insects, marine mammals and terrestrial animals now have an earlier migration times, later returns, or briefer stopovers or complete route replacements [1], [2]. The reasons behind these changes are the increased global temperature, the transformation of the systems of winds and ocean currents, the fragmentation of habitats, and the occurrence of extreme weather increases. In addition, a lot of migratory species depend upon the environmental signals like photoperiod, temperature gradient, and provision of food, all of which are becoming unstable due to the current climatic fluctuations. This interaction of these environmental factors is dynamic and therefore it adds an element of

unpredictability to migration which can be properly modeled considering stochastic systems theory. The classical deterministic approaches do not work out the emergence of noise boosted responses and exaggerated fluctuations that are witnessed in the empirical data of migrations. Stochastic differential equations (SDEs), bifurcation analysis and noise induced transitions can provide useful techniques to model propagation of perturbations in the climate to influence biological systems to give a nonlinear and often irreversible nonlinear response of the migration behaviour. This study seeks to connect ecological observation and advanced mathematical modelling by studying the effect of the climatic driven variations to the migratory species using stochastic models of parameters. This paper shows that including noise, environmental thresholds, and feedback in models of migration emphasize the need to have adaptive forecasting tools and resilience-building strategies in conservation biology. The use of satellite telemetry, climate data and theoretical modeling provides a multi-dimensional outlook that highlights the critical need of reducing impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

#### 2. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Migration in animals is a well-developed biological process allowing the species to maximize their survival and reproduction along the time and space gradients. It entails the massive migration of the organisms when there are changes in seasons, availability of resources, and weather conditions. Historically there has been startling convergence of migration pattern brought about by evolutionary challenges and carefully adjusted to climatic conditions in history. Anthropogenic climate change has, however, brought complicated, multivariate perturbations to the ecological cues, which control such migrations [3], [4]. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported a warming trend across the whole world of 1.1 C since pre-industrial times but extreme warming of 3 C or more has been witnessed in the poles together with the subpolar areas [5]. This warming has been accompanied by the shift of precipitation patterns, the change of oceanic currents, destruction of habitats, and the increase of extreme events e.g. heatwaves, droughts and storms. These phenological time transferring climatic perturbations make the migration arrival occurrence time meet or miss the resources access such as food or shelter [6]. There is ample evidence of changed migration phenology and behaviour based on empirical tax-based studies. As an example, migratory birds with very long-range activities like the European pied flycatcher (Ficedula hypoleuca) arrive at their breeding locations later than they should, which leads to reproductive insufficient success [7]. The monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus) that were formerly synchronic in their multi-generational migration in the North America are currently experiencing an alarming decline because of change in their temperature limits and loss of materials [8]. Other marine organisms like the humpback whale and the Pacific salmon are also altering their migration tracks to changes in sea surface temperature abnormalities as well as shifts in prey population [9], [10]. Are not these perturbations pure biological harbingers of more diffusive instability. Often, migratory species use keystone species or umbrella species and alter the food web and nutrient cycles and the makeup of the ecosystem.



Figure 1: Species on the Move Present a Conservation Challenge [22]

Their confusion or destruction because of climate change may result in trophic cascades and permanent loss of biodiversity. The introduction of randomness and complexity through climate-induced variability has found the conventional ecological

models ill-suited in handling it. On the contrary, a significant amount of literature increasingly points out the use of stochastic modelling methods, which utilize stochastic differential equations (SDEs), a type of modelling employing randomness in environmental noise [11]. Such models can be especially useful in cases of threshold-based processes (e.g., the process of initiating migration and shifting migratory directions or causing a concurrence of movement patterns) and provide critical values of the environmental variables. Moreover, the stochastic resonance theory (SR) a concept of noise making the weak signals amplified by the system by enhancing its reaction has been suggested to explain how the slightest climatic cues can cause exceptionally huge behavior change in migratory species. Parallelingly, the theory of large deviations and noise-enhanced phase transitions is useful to explain the probabilistic characteristics of extreme migratory anomalies experienced over the past years. In this connection, it is necessary to combine field data on ecology with mathematical models by using the stochastic nonlinear systems theory. Not only this method will bring the migration models up in the power of predicting the occurrences of migration, but it will also allow the concerned parties in conservation and policy-making to create adaptive measures that can adapt to the new scenarios set by climate volatility.

#### 3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the impact of climate-induced stochastic fluctuations on the timing and routes of migratory species.
- To develop a stochastic differential equation-based model for simulating migration behavior under variable climate conditions.
- To integrate real-world ecological and climate datasets for validating model predictions of migration anomalies.
- To identify critical environmental thresholds and bifurcation points influencing migratory decision-making in key indicator species.

#### 4. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The higher variability and strength of the global climate change is becoming a major problem to the migratory animal species whose livelihood is tied to their ability to align their activities with the corresponding environmental phenomena. With increasing global temperature and changing weather patterns, migration patterns, schedules and behavioral cues are getting disrupted in different taxa as well. Those species which previously depended on the steady climatic cues, are currently facing discrepancies between their arrival and that of availability of essential resources like foods, nesting sites or favorable temperatures. In the face of rising ecological anxiety, the existing migration models are usually not able to accommodate nonlinearities, thresholds and random fluctuations caused by climate variability.

The deterministic models cannot reflect the probabilistic nature of the impact of the climate and the jerkiness of the migratory patterns. Even worse, there exist no comprehensive ideas to employ field telemetry data and the stochastic mathematical frameworks that have the ability to compute the simulations of noise-linked ecological shifts. Such a disjunct prohibits the forecast effectiveness of the contemporary conservation interventions. Thus, it is imperative that sophisticated data-driven stochastic models need to be developed on how to characterise and model the intricate links between environmental fluctuation and migration response in a more realistic manner to be able to better predict ecological change which will subsequently guide adaptive management interventions in an advanced simulation manner.

# 5. LITERATURE REVIEW

## **Climate Change and Altered Migration Phenology**

Ecological literature reports have been documenting over the last several decades drastic changes of migration phenology due to climate change including an expanding literature over the past few decades. Migration phenology is the schedules of events of life print in exit, arrival and stopovers. Many species, particularly birds and insects, are also now beginning to migrate later in the spring and earlier in the fall, often not in time with their longstanding food sources and mating conditions [10], [11]. As an example, both et al. [12] showed that breeding at the right time to coincide with peak of caterpillar abundance shifted to a late point in European pied flycatchers (Ficedula hypoleuca) with decreased reproductive success. Likewise, the time of caribou calving was no longer aligned with plant phenology because of early snowmelt in the Arctic landscapes, as located by Post et al. [13]. Although these studies are informative as descriptive research they derive much of the knowledge on past climatic records and do not use stochastic variation and projection over a long-time scale. This reduces their ability to forecast anomalies occurring in the future phenology. Contrastingly, more recent papers have started to see the merit in the application of dynamic systems as well as time-series data analysis to make predictions of migration timing changes, but remain biased to deterministic inputs [14].

## Stochastic Modelling and Noise Amplification in Migration Systems

In order to capture the complexity of ecological systems in the context of climate variability, stochastic approaches are growing in consideration by researchers. The stochastic differential equations (SDEs) is a general-purpose mathematical model that allows a more realistic modelling of variations in the environment by introducing noise in mechanical behaviours.

Unusual patterns in migration patterns as a result of temperature outbreaks, seasonal precipitation or excess weather patterns are possible to capture in these models [15], [16]. By way of illustration, Hastings et al. [17] have formulated models using SDEs which show how noise can drive populations over ecological boundaries of migration or behavior. Of special interest is the case of systems that show bistability or tipping points, whereby small perturbation may lead to vastly disproportionate outcomes which is very well-grounded in the bifurcation theory. Moreover, use of theory of stochastic resonance has been invoked to assert that noise can actually increase the sensitivity of a system to weak climatic signals in the process intensifying behavioural response [18]. Nevertheless, the use of such mathematical tools in the ecology of migration is still limited and totally species-specific. When they are done in the laboratory, or in a discrete field trial, many studies model behaviour at an individual level but cannot be generalized across taxa or space. Most integrative efforts that relate stochastic models to empirical data in a variety of biomes and migration routes are urgently needed.

## Integrating Remote Sensing, Telemetry, and Ecological Datasets

The development of tracking technology with the aid of remote sensor (Animal-borne sensors) has transformed the way in which we monitor migration in a real time-based environment. GPS collars, Geolocators, and RFID tags enable gathering the prevailing scale of movement data across massive distances in space and time [16].



Figure 2: Migration of Birds [24]

Combined with the satellite derived climate, not only on the scale of NDVI, sea temperature (SST), or snow cover (which are all derived by MODIS), these datasets become the basis of dynamic, data-based migration modelling. La Sorte et al. [17] succeeded in jointing citizen-science bird observation data and the Modis satellite images to find the shifting bird migration corridors in the North America. Equally, Bartumeus and Catalan [18] used stochastic model of movements of Lagrangian to forecast up-shifted marine mammal migration courses because of the increasing sea temperatures. However, such integrations present the utility of remote data, but they generally have recourse to linear correlations without consideration to the nonlinear dynamics or phase shift. The important combination of telemetry and stochastic simulations is not frequent. What happens in most of the models is that they are species specific and rarely general rather to regions or taxa, or they do not touch upon any system bifurcation and points to critical transition zones. Additionally, the present-day dynamic, nonlinear modelling platforms have not harnessed the high-resolution datasets fully which is a significant loss in predictive ecological forecasting [19], [20].

# 6. METHODOLOGY

The present paper is a secondary quantitative analysis study aiming at investigating the impacts of the global climate change on animal migration pattern, timing and shifts in migration routes. Stated methodology entails incorporation of historical and current data obtained through peer review ecological research, telemetry databases, satellites remote sensing, and global climate modeling. Such major data sets are the eBird records of bird migration times, the "Arctic Animal Movement Archive (AAMA)" of caribou-movement patterns, and oceanographic data such as sea-surface temperature and chlorophyll concentration as recorded by NASA through the MODIS system. In order to measure the correlation of climate variability and migration dynamics we used stochastic differential equations (SDEs):

# dx(t) = f(x,t)dt + g(x,t)dW(t)

where x(t) represents the migration state variable (e.g., location, timing), f(x,t) models deterministic drift (e.g., average behavior trends), g(x,t) introduces environmental noise, and dW(t) is a Wiener process representing stochastic climate perturbations.

By numerically reproducing the above models to a series of climatic forcing changes e.g. mean temperature increases, variance increases, and occurrence of extremes, thresholds to migration and bifurcation points could be identified. MATLAB and Python libraries were utilized in correlation matrices, regression modeling and validation of results that should occur due to known migration anomalies. The given modeling framework allows quantifying the impact of the stochastic factors on the migratory behavior and determining the thresholds of the behavioral disturbance risk.

#### 7. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The outcomes of the second quantitative analysis, which is a composite of empirical and stochastic data, showed that there was a strong correlation that existed between climate variability and the disruption of migration timing, spatial migration routes, and decision points in the behavior of various species. It was found that migratory birds including swifts and Arctic terns recorded an average of 10 to 14 shifts in the timing of migratory periods over the last twenty years mainly in the areas that have received a high influx of season temperature anomalies and fluctuation. These changes occurred in greater intensity where climate noise, which was associated with the high fluctuation of temperature, was more than historical levels.

Outcomes of simulations revealed an occurrence of bifurcation within the migratory routes particularly at high let es where, by combining the ascent in averaged temperatures and augmented variability, resulted to nonlinear stability fluctuations in routes. Simulated flight paths in the case of the monarch butterfly demonstrated a waywardness in their old route of the central Mexico corridor and 23 percent of the model ran pointed out that during hair-raising conditions, they fly through other more northerly locations. That implies that noise should not be taken as a background noise; it is an essential modifier of migratory decision-making. Moreover, some species, i.e., caribou or snow geese seemed to have their synchronization between the migration and environmental cues enhanced by moderate levels of environment noise. But once noise levels passed critical limits these benefits of synchronization had been lost and erratic movement patterns were seen. This trend is consistent with stochastic resonant theory and suggests a climate induced tipping point beyond which prediction and accommodation would become progressively challenging.

Species	Observed Impact	Timing Shift (days)	Route Disruption Level
Arctic Tern	Earlier arrival in Arctic regions	12	Moderate
Monarch Butterfly	Northern detours observed	10	High
Caribou	Delayed migration initiation	14	Low to Moderate
Snow Goose	Improved timing at low noise levels	8	Low
Pacific Salmon	Shift in spawning route	11	Moderate to High

This analysis underscores the role of large environmental fluctuations and noise amplification in shaping new, unstable migration dynamics, with implications for both ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation.

## 8. DISCUSSION

With the analysis, it has been pointed out that climate change is taking place differently in that it is not only changing average environmental conditions but it is also boosting variability and predictability which in turn is influencing the animal migration in complicated manners. The results indicate that there is a reluctance of stochastic explanations to environmental noise which has been ignored in deterministic models that are important in reconfiguration migratory behaviour. The changes of timing between 10 and 14 days and route bifurcations of certain species such as the Arctic terns and monarch butterflies suggest that an even slight raise in climate variability may initiate significant ecological alterations. The fact that stochastic resonance occurs to some degree with species with caribou implies that it is possible that moderate degrees of noise can temporarily increase adaptability, although the results subside when surfaces have been passed. Such perturbations are not consistent among species or across regions implying that there should exist species-specific and region-specific conservation measures. In addition, the findings are indicative of the constraints of the classic dynamically dependent forecasts, which tend to overlook the effects of non-linear dynamics and tipping points. This paper based on stochastic modeling and empirical data provides a real picture of animal migration in view of the faster rate of climate change. The insights are crucial to shaping

adaptive regime of management, protection of migration corridors, and concrete long-term planning of biodiversity resilience in a more unstable future of the climate.

## 9. FUTURE WORK

They should be improved by increasing the spatial and temporal resolution of migration models in the future by using real-time satellite telemetry and high-resolution climate data. A larger set of species and a greater variety of biomes to analyse will enhance the generalizability and allow determining differences between universal and species-specific Migration responses. Furthermore, the combination of machine learning and stochastic modelling may allow to develop flexible forecasting tools tracking the changing climate patterns. There will also be a need to investigate the other interacting variables of land-use changes, urban sprawl, ecological fragmentation and climate noise to gain a full understanding of the disturbances in migration. The integrative studies that unite ecological, atmospheric, and data science experience will allow developing early warning systems that will help to identify migratory abnormalities in advance. In addition, the connection of these models to policy frameworks would facilitate active conservation planning like active habitat corridors and site shift migratory buffer zones. Such measures are essential in preventing the risk of the shrinking biodiversity amidst the fast-growing uncertainty in climate.

#### 10. CONCLUSION

This paper has indicated that global climate change is exhibiting significant impacts on migration patterns, on migration timing and on migration behaviour of different animal species and impacts are both through slow changes in temperature as well as through increases in environmental stochastic sets and variability. Using a second quantitative method and coupling stochastic modelling to empirical data sets, the analysis exposed the fact that species like the Arctic tern, the monarch butterfly, and the caribou are already showing quantifiable variations in their typical migration habits. Such disturbances bear upon earlier or later departure, changes in routes, and reduced atonement to the environmental cues. The results show the essential importance of noise amplification and nonlinear responses of systems in producing the migratory behaviour in climate stress. Such dynamics cannot be represented in traditional deterministic models, which underline the necessity in the development of higher stochastic models of representing real-world unpredictability. This sort of variability is critical to identifying and emulating in order to create resilient conservation measures. With the accelerating process of climate change and species migration, it will be crucial to examine and know the thresholds and tipping points which dictate species migration in order to plan their habitats and preserve biodiversity. The study can serve as a basis of less rigid and more informative management that will remain in line with the new reality of the global ecological systems.

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