



NatureSignDesign

BIRD MIGRATION

CHAMPIONS

You have to be impressed and amazed about migratory birds. Travelling thousands of miles to reach warmer climates for food and to mate. Journey's may take them over open oceans, where pit stops are impossible for food, water, or even sleep.

However their feathered bodies persevere to conquer this remarkable athletic and navigational triumph. Not all birds will make it and some birds will die from sheer exhaustion during their voyage. Other threats, including predators and environmental pollution also add to the risk of an unsuccessful trip.

Nature Sign Design have featured the migration champions - from the smallest migratory bird to the biggest and can you guess which makes the longest journey?..

The Largest

Albatros

An albatross aloft can be a spectacular sight. These feathered giants have the longest wingspan of any bird—up to 11 feet (3.4 meters). They take an 18-month break between mating seasons and fly around the world in the southern reaches of the Atlantic Ocean.



The Smallest

Ruby Throated Hummingbird

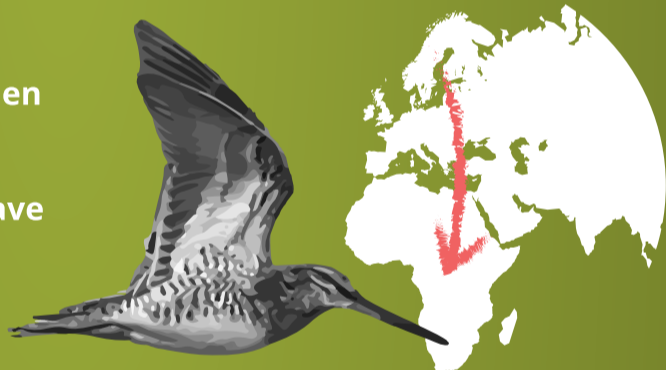
Most rubythroats are between 3 and 3.5 inches and only weigh 3 to 4 grammes. They fly nonstop 500 miles from breeding grounds in North America to Mexico and other Central American countries. Some rubythroats fly over land, following the coastline to reach their wintering grounds.



The Fastest

Great Snipe

Great snipes breed in Scandinavia then migrate nonstop over a distance of around 4,200 miles to Africa at a phenomenal 60 mph. Researchers have found that this could well be the fastest bird on Earth over long distances.



The Longest trip

Arctic Tern

The Arctic tern is famous for its migration, from its Arctic breeding ground to the Antarctic and back again each year (an average of 44,000 miles). The shortest distance between these areas being 12,000 miles. The journey ensures that they see two summers per year.



Longest without stopping

Bar Tailed Godwit

Migrateing in flocks from East Asia, Alaska, Australia, Africa, north western Europe and New Zealand, this bird has undertaken the longest non-stop recorded flight of any bird (7,258 miles, approx nine days).



Fastest Declining

Turtle Dove

They migrate from Europe to Western Africa, and back again. The turtle dove population has plummeted 96 per cent since 1970, making it the UK's fastest declining migrant bird. The population is halving in number every six years.

