

# Climate change clips wings of migratory birds in Poland

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Ornithologist Michal Redlisiak checks the belly of a goldcrest at a remote camp run by bird experts and volunteers near Krynica Morska, northern Poland, on October 3, 2015

It takes the dexterity of a lacemaker to remove the tiny bird caught in nets strung between pine trees on Poland's Baltic coast, a veritable paradise for dozens of migratory species.

Polish ornithologist Jaroslaw Nowakowski delicately unravels the goldcrest, among Europe's smallest bird species, placing it inside a muslin bag before moving it to a make-shift laboratory in a tent for measuring and tagging with rings.

The hulking professor says studies by the University of Gdansk over the last 55 years show a disturbing trend in the wings of certain species.

"Pointed wings better adapted to travelling long distances are giving way to more rounded ones that work better on shorter trips," Nowakowski told AFP, blaming "global warming, urbanisation and deforestation" for the change.

"Thanks to our extensive records, we have solid proof of the change and have raised the alarm, but generally to no avail.

"Climate change is nothing new, but today humans are triggering very rapid changes and certain species aren't able to adapt—that's the greatest risk."

Migratory [birds](#) face a myriad of other man-made threats. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, end up on dinner plates around the Mediterranean basin.

Snipes, with their long, slender bill, are considered a delicacy from Cyprus to France, even though they provide precious little meat.

"Sometimes our bird rings return to us, as it's a rule to return them to the country of origin. I'm sure more than one Frenchman has cracked a tooth eating pate made using our birds," he told AFP.

He explains that rings often return with documents marked "pate" as the location they were found.

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