

2020 assessment of the East Atlantic Flyway

Every year millions of waterbirds fly from western and southern Africa to their breeding grounds in Europe and the Arctic, and back. Due to its strategic position along the East Atlantic Flyway, the Wadden Sea is a vital refuge for more than 10 million migratory birds on their journey. The Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative was set up as a collaborative partnership to support the conservation of

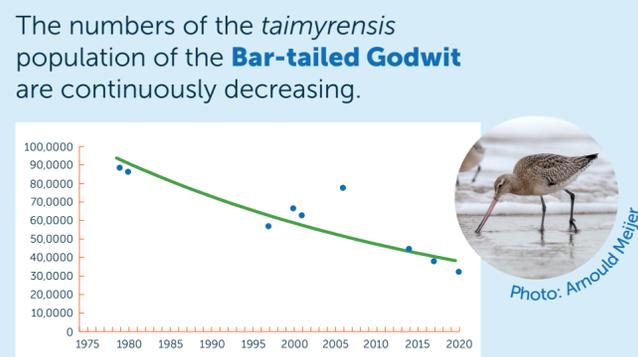
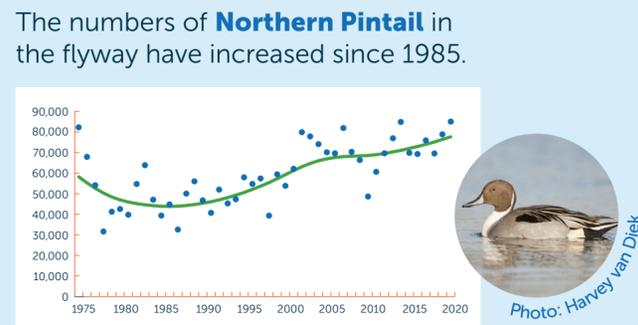
these birds. Every three years, the initiative, in collaboration with numerous other partners, coordinates a flyway-wide simultaneous bird count which also includes many waterbirds that breed in Africa and migrate along Africa's Atlantic coastline. The aim is to see how our feathered friends are doing and the sites on which they depend. Some key findings of the latest counts are displayed here.

Efforts

- 36 countries
- 13,000 counters
- >1,000 sites

Findings

- 30% of populations decline
- 50% of populations increase
- 16% stable
- 4% uncertain population developments
- 83 populations
- 66 species



Top pressures

- Roads and cars/ railroads and trains
- Sea level rise
- Recreation/tourism
- Agricultural effluents
- Shellfish gathering
- Litter and garbage
- Fishing
- Ship traffic
- Buildings
- Forest logging and firewood collection

The three pressures named most frequently in each region. In addition, impacts of climate change are cross-cutting and widespread along the flyway.

Key outcomes

Climate change

Negative impacts of climate change are increasingly threatening birds and habitats along the flyway. In Europe, sea level rise is already among the top three pressures.

Waders decline

Continued worrying declines in long-distance migratory waders, especially those breeding in the Siberian Arctic.

Action needed

Protecting sites favoured by birds and managing habitats sustainably are important measures to conserve migratory birds.

