



OHS YOUTH NEWSLETTER

By, For, and About Youth & Animal Welfare
Ohlone Humane Society Youth & Family

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Witnessing the Magic of Fall Migration

by Makayla A, 16 years

As the cool autumn air settles in and daylight diminishes, it's easy to find yourself gazing up at the sky more frequently, searching for that unmistakable sign of fall—the migration of animals. It's truly fascinating to observe how nature prepares for winter, as birds, butterflies, and other creatures embark on journeys that can span thousands of miles. This phenomenon reminds many of our deep connection to the rhythms of Earth.

During this season, millions of animals are on the move, adhering to ancient migration routes in search of warmer climates and plentiful food sources. It's a time of survival, showcasing their remarkable endurance, and if you pay close attention, you can witness some of this wonder right in your own backyard.

Why Do Animals Migrate?

At its essence, migration is about survival. Animals travel to find food and better living conditions as winter approaches. As fall arrives, resources become limited in colder regions, prompting many species—such as birds, butterflies, and even some mammals—to take to the skies or land, following their innate instincts.

Take the monarch butterflies, for instance. Each year, they embark on an incredible journey from Canada and the United States to Mexico. It amazes me to think that these delicate creatures, weighing less than a paperclip, can cover distances of up to 3,000 miles! Then there are the birds, like Canada geese, forming those iconic V-shaped formations in the sky, conserving energy as they migrate south. They truly have the migration process down to an art.

The Challenges They Face

While migration may appear to be a graceful ballet in the sky or a smooth journey across the land, it is fraught with difficulties. Animals encounter numerous challenges—severe weather, fatigue, and increasingly, the effects of human development. Roads, urban areas, and pollution complicate their search for essential resources, and climate change is reshaping their traditional pathways.

Experiencing Migration in Your Own Backyard

One of the aspects that fascinates scientists about fall migration is how easily accessible it is for all of us to observe. You don't need to be a globe-trotter to witness this event. Right now, in local parks and even in your own neighborhood, migratory animals are stopping to refuel before continuing their travels. It's the perfect opportunity to grab a beverage, find a peaceful spot, and simply observe.

Canada geese are a favorite species for citizen science tracking. Their loud honking and the sight of them flying in perfect formation southward for the winter herald the arrival of fall. It never fails to captivate nature lovers. If you're fortunate, you might also spot smaller, brightly colored birds like warblers or robins taking brief pauses in trees along their journey.

Even butterflies play a role in this grand migration. The monarch butterflies, with their delicate wings, often rest on flower patches or tree branches, offering us a fleeting glimpse of their remarkable journey. It's humbling to consider how these tiny creatures accomplish something so monumental.

While migration is undoubtedly inspiring, it also serves as a reminder that many of these species are confronting greater challenges than ever before. The world is changing, and these changes are complicating their journeys. However, there are steps we can take to help.

Check out the [Audobon bird migration website](#) to track your favorite species!

Animal News & Community Service Opportunities

October 12, 2024 City of Fremont Community Services

Garden Volunteering for 12 years old and up

October 19, 2024 OHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Open House



Careers in Wildlife & Links to More Info

by Makayla A.

Nature can be captivating, leading many to a desire to work with animals and contribute to their protection. A career in wildlife offers various paths, including these careers:

- **Wildlife Biologist:** Studies animals in their habitats, crucial for understanding populations and protection efforts.
- **Conservationist:** Protects wildlife and habitats, balancing fieldwork with policy-making.
- **Wildlife Veterinarian:** Treats injured wild animals, directly aiding in their recovery and return to the wild.
- **Wildlife Photographer/Filmmaker:** Captures the beauty of wildlife, raising awareness about conservation through storytelling.
- **Park Ranger:** Ensures safety in parks while educating the public about conservation.
- **Zoologist:** Studies animals in captivity and the wild, contributing to breeding programs and conservation.
- **Environmental Educator:** Teaches others about wildlife, inspiring future conservationists.
- **Ecotourism Guide:** Leads responsible wildlife tours, blending adventure with education.

Choosing a wildlife career means finding purpose while making a real difference for animals and ecosystems. Exploring these opportunities can lead to fulfilling work that protects the natural world for future generations.

Interested in writing an article or sharing original animal art for the OHS Youth Newsletter?

Tell us your thoughts on animal issues.

What are your observations about migration in your area?

Draw a picture or take an original photo of an community animal in its local habitat.

Share an original nature poem.

Contact youth@ohlonehumanesociety.org for more info about community service hours for participation in the newsletter.