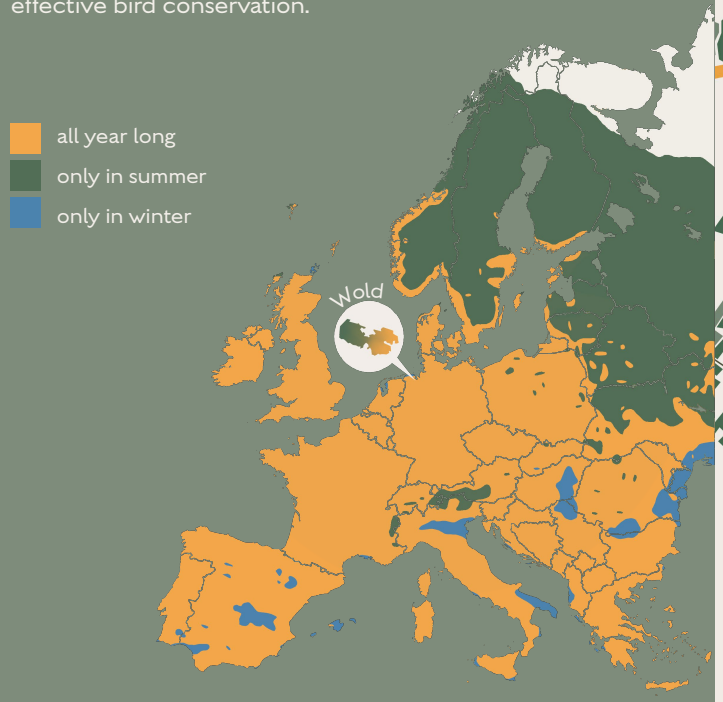
Migration

We study partial migration in a European robin population in north-western Germany through a long-term field project. Our research explores why and how birds decide to migrate, which routes they take, and how individual behaviour is shaped by both internal and external, environmental factors. Using individual marking and tracking, we monitor migration strategies within a population of European robins over time. This research helps us understand the drivers of migration, how patterns change in response to environmental and climate change, which provides important information for effective bird conservation.



Why Robins?

Robins are cute, easy to recognise and not very shy. They are very common breeders, have a wide distribution range, and with a healthy population size are of least conservation concern. They are a great model to study migration as they show differences in the propensity to migrate across their distribution range.

Why the Wold?

The robin population in the Wold is partially migratory, which means some robins stay year-round while the other individuals migrate in autumn and return in the spring. Monitoring climate and environmental parameters and the frequency of migratory and resident individuals over time allows us to identify the factors responsible for a robin to stay or migrate.

ROBIN MIGRATION STUDY

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SFB 1372
Magnetoreception and Navigation in Vertebrates

2026

EUROPEAN ROBIN

Erithacus rubecula

How Does It Work?

RADIO TAG

Radiotags are small transmitters that emit a unique radio signal. This radio signal is picked up by directionally oriented radio receivers, telling us where the bird is headed.
By measuring the signal strength, we can track the bird's location almost in real time!

GEOLOCATOR

Global Location Sensors (GLS) are lightweight sensors. They record daily patterns of the sunlight over the year allowing us to map migratory routes.

IDENTIFICATION RING

The birds are individually marked with aluminium rings which allows individual recognition and identification. The unique code contains information about the country and ringing scheme in which the bird was ringed, functioning as bird's ID and allowing researchers to recognise the bird in subsequent catching.

COLOR RING

Being bigger in size and brightly coloured, plastic Colour Rings are easier to spot from afar using binoculars. Each scientific study uses a specific colour and number on the ring, to indicate that the bird is a part of that study. In our case, the rings are white with black text (A00-Z99).

Would You Like To Help?

We monitor birds year-round, but of course cannot follow them during migration nor do we spot residential individuals all the time. Their world is vast and private.

And here we need you! Have you seen a robin with a white ring? Reporting it helps us a lot and is an important piece in the puzzle. Whenever you see a robin with a white ring, please let us know - through this QR code, by mail or phone.

YOUR OBSERVATION MATTERS!

Contacts:
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E-mail: Poststelle@ifv-vogelwarte.de

Date:
Time:
Place (adress or coordinates):
Ring number (coloured and/or metal):
Condition of bird:
Notes / Comments: