

Humans Show Birds How to Fly South for Winter

今回は、人間が渡り鳥に南への飛び方を教えるというユニークな活動を紹介する記事です。絶滅の危機にあった「ホオアカトキ」という鳥が、人の手助けを受けて渡りの訓練をしているそうです。記事に出てくる「migrate」は「渡る」という意味ですが、単に移動するのではなく、季節や環境の変化に合わせて長い距離を移動するニュアンスがあります。記事では **migratory birds**（渡り鳥）のように形容詞として、**migration route**（渡りの経路）のように名詞としても使われています。動物の習性を人間が支えるという発想は、不思議で興味深いですね。あなたは絶滅の危機にある動物や鳥を守るために、どんなことが大切だと思いますか？講師と話してみましょう。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Humans hunted and killed almost all northern bald ibis birds by the 17th century. But **breeding** and rewilding efforts over the last 20 years helped grow the bird population.

However, the birds do not know which direction to fly to **migrate** without the guidance of wild-born birds. So, humans are helping the birds learn their migration path.

The northern bald ibis once flew over North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and much of Europe, including southern Germany's Bavaria. People liked eating the migratory birds, and they disappeared from Europe. A few groups of the birds survived in other places.

In 2002, a conservation and research group based in Austria stepped in to help. The group is called Waldrappteam; the birds are called Waldrapp in German. Scientists at Waldrappteam raise the birds and teach them how to fly to warmer areas.

Johannes Fritz is a biologist working with the team. He said, "We have to teach them the migration route."

Fritz and the Waldrappteam have increased the number of northern ibis in Central Europe from zero to almost 300 since the start of their project in 2002.

Fritz said the group's work is the first [attempt](#) to reintroduce a continentally [extinct](#) migratory bird species. He said his team found that, when released, the birds raised by humans flew in the wrong direction and died in the winter. The humans have led the birds now for 17 years to places like Tuscany, Italy. Due to climate change, they have had to change the route to a winter home. Now they help the birds fly to Andalusia in southern Spain.

To prepare them for travel, the humans begin working with the baby birds, or chicks, when they are just a few days old. The [foster parent](#) humans want the birds to connect with them so they will trust them along the migration route.

Barbara Steininger is one Waldrappteam foster mother. She said she acts like "their bird mom."

"We feed them, we clean them, we clean their nests. We take good care of them and see that they are healthy birds," she said. "But also we interact with them."

Steininger and the other foster parents then sit on the back of a very small aircraft, waving and cheering for the birds as they fly.

Fritz knew his work would be possible because he saw the work of Canadian inventor and naturalist Bill Lishman. Lishman taught Canadian geese to fly alongside his small plane beginning in 1988. He later guided endangered whooping cranes through safe routes.

Fritz's team efforts have worked. The first bird independently migrated back to Bavaria from Tuscany in 2011. The team hopes the Central European population will be more than 350 birds by 2028 and will not need human help to migrate.

This year, the route to Spain is longer than last year's path. Earlier this month from an airfield in upper Bavaria, the team guided 36 birds along one stage through blue skies and a wind from behind them that increased their speed.

The full journey to Spain could take up to 50 days. Fritz said the effort is bigger than just the northern bald ibises. He hopes the group's work offers a possibility for helping other threatened migratory species to fly.

Bobby Hardy and Stefanie Dazio reported this story for the Associated Press. Jill Robbins adapted it for Learning English.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

- 1. breeding (n.)** putting pairs of animals or plants together to produce a new generation

Breeding some kinds of fish is difficult, but breeding guppies is easy.

- 2. migrate (v.)** to move from one place to another depending on the season

Ducks usually **migrate** in the middle of autumn and in early spring.

- 3. attempt (n.)** a try

This is our second **attempt** to grow beefsteak tomatoes in our garden.

- 4. extinct (adj.)** to completely die out; having none of a species left alive

The western black rhinoceros went **extinct** in 2011.

- 5. foster parent (n.)** a parent who takes care of a child if the original parents are gone

Keith and Leroy live in a house with their **foster parents**.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is the northern bald ibis, and what happened to it?
2. What is Waldrappenteam doing to help the ibis? Please explain in detail.
3. What did Bill Lishman of Canada do starting in the late 1980s?
4. What other endangered birds do you know of?
5. Why should we attempt to save endangered and nearly extinct animals and plants?