

**CHANGE OF DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATORY PATTERNS OF BIRDS,
POSSIBLE RESERVOIRS OF VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES,
UNDER INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

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Armenia is located at the crossroad of three global migration flyways: Black Sea – Mediterranean, East Asian – East African, and Central Asian. Majority of the migrants, which fly through Armenia, belong to raptors, water birds, and passerines, most of which have stopover points in the country, where the birds get rest and sometimes food. Thus, raptors stop in the grasslands and scrublands, waterbirds stop at the shorelines and wetlands, passerines stop in scrublands and wetlands. Regular observations, conducted since 1995, allowed documenting the changes in occurrence status and migratory patterns for a number of species. For example, Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) expanded its distribution to the north-west and begun breeding in Armenia since 2009. See-see Partridge (*Ammoperdix griseogularis*) expanded its distribution to the north and started breeding in Armenia since 2003. Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) expanded its distribution to the north, becoming frequently recorded in Armenia since 2016, year-round visitor since 2019, and a breeding bird since 2022. White-tailed Lapwing (*Vanellus leucurus*) was full migrant but starting from 2021 it was recorded staying in the country year-round, thus changing its migration pattern. The subspecies of Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus variegatus* (by some authors considered as *S.m. hemprichii*), was migrating through the country, but since at least 2010s it stays in the country overwinter, thus shrinking its migration distance. Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*) expanded its distribution to north-east, becoming a regular visitor 2007, with possible breeding. Desert Finch (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*) expanded its distribution to the north, starting breeding in the country since 2013. The current examples show that many birds are entering Armenia, expanding their distribution range from the south, which is most-probably conditioned by the climate change, as it is observed in Europe and North America. Change of the birds' distribution is strengthening the link between tropical countries and Armenia thus bringing all the risks of possible tick-borne diseases to the country.