

MEDIA INFORMATION



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Nature: Flyways Follows Scientists Racing Against the Clock to Save the World's Migratory Shorebirds

New documentary premieres Wednesday, February 7 at 8/7c on PBS (check local listings), pbs.org/nature, YouTube and the PBS App

Shorebirds fly thousands of miles each year along ancient and largely unknown migratory routes called Flyways. More than 200 species, such as Far Eastern Curlews, Lesser Yellowlegs, Red Knots and Hudsonian Godwits, travel from feeding grounds in the southern hemisphere to breeding grounds in the Arctic and back again, flying up to nine days non-stop without food or water.

But their populations are crashing amidst climate change and urban development. Follow a conservation movement of bird-loving experts and citizen scientists as they mobilize to the challenge of understanding and saving shorebirds. *Nature: Flyways* premieres <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>February 7 at 8/7c on PBS (check local listings)</u>, pbs.org/nature, YouTube and the PBS App.

"Growing up near Moreton Bay in Queensland, I was introduced early to the beauty of shorebirds by my grandmother," said *Flyways* director Randall Wood. "An avid bird watcher and poet, she taught me to love these vulnerable and threatened creatures. As a filmmaker focusing on issues of ecology and science, I felt a deep calling to make this film, to highlight the positive actions we can take to stem the tide on a local and global level."

"There are few creatures on earth more inspiring or courageous than shorebirds," said Fred Kaufman, executive producer for *Nature*. "Their epic journeys tell us much about our world, ourselves and our quest for a better future."

"We're proud of the scientists and storytellers who came together to shine a light on these birds and the challenges they face," said Head of HHMI Tangled Bank Studios Jared Lipworth. "*Nature* viewers will be captivated by their strength and resilience, and I expect this film may inspire a lot of new bird watchers to get outside and start their life lists."

Nature: Flyways is a Storyland, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and The WNET Group production in association with ZED and PTS (Public Television Service), Taiwan. The documentary is written, produced and directed by Randall Wood and co-written and produced by Rebecca McElroy. Nora Young narrates. Trish Lake, Aline Jacques, Odilla O'Boyle, Wuan-Ling Guo, Christine Le Goff and Manuel Catteau are Executive Producers. For **HHMI Tangled Bank Studios**, David Guy Elisco and Sean B. Carroll are Executive Producers. For **Nature**, Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer, Bill Murphy is Series Producer and Janet Hess is Series Editor. *Nature* is a production of The WNET Group.

Nature: Flyways was produced with principal production and development funding from Screen Australia and with production support provided by Screen Queensland and Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Additional support was provided by Perpetual Kindness Foundation and Sun Hill Renewal Fund. Series funding for *Nature* is made possible in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Arnhold Family in memory of Henry and Clarisse Arnhold, The Fairweather Foundation, Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Charles Rosenblum, Kathy Chiao and Ken Hao, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, Gregg Peters Monsees Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Sandra Atlas Bass, and public television viewers.

Since 1982, *Nature* has pioneered a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry, bringing the natural world to millions of viewers. The series has won more than 700 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 21 Emmys and three Peabodys. *Nature* is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including <u>PBS.org</u> and the <u>PBS App</u>, available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. Classic episodes are available on various <u>FAST channel platforms</u> and on <u>PBS Passport</u>.

Websites:

pbs.org/nature; facebook.com/PBSNature; twitter.com/PBSNature; instagram.com/pbsnature; youtube.com/naturepbs, tiktok.com/@pbsnature, #NaturePBS

About The WNET Group

The WNET Group creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's THIRTEEN - America's flagship PBS station - WLIW21, THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; NJ PBS, New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; ALL ARTS, the arts and culture media provider; newsroom NJ Spotlight News; and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series Nature, Great Performances, American Masters and Amanpour and Company and trusted local news program NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series Cyberchase, interactive Mission US history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

About Storyland

Randall Wood is founder of Storyland, a Queensland-based production company dedicated to making media for the heart and mind. Storyland's multi-awarded productions have screened across the globe in cinemas and homes - <u>www.globalstory.tv</u>

About HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

HHMI Tangled Bank Studios is a mission-driven production company that crafts exceptional films about science and nature that inspire wonder, curiosity and hope. The studio is uniquely positioned to shine a light on some of the most significant scientific challenges and breakthroughs of our time. Recent films include Oscar-nominated All That Breathes, the only documentary to win best documentary at both Sundance and Cannes; Emmy Award-winners The Serengeti Rules and The Farthest – Voyager In Space; Emmy-nominated Nature's Fear Factor and My Garden of a Thousand Bees; and Peabody Award-winner Inventing Tomorrow. To extend the reach and impact of each film, the studio undertakes educational and public outreach efforts in partnership with mission-driven organizations. For more information, please visit <u>WWW.TANGLEDBANKSTUDIOS.ORG</u>.

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