

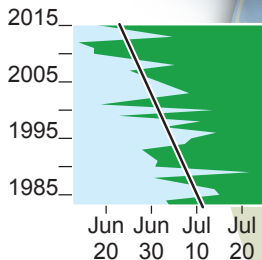
# Warming threat to migratory birds

Red knot chicks born under rapidly warming conditions in the Arctic are now smaller when they migrate, hampering their ability to reach the best food in their wintering grounds in West Africa. Researchers warn that body shrinkage could also be affecting the survival of other Arctic migrants

## Taimyr Peninsula, Russia

Snow in red knot breeding grounds melting progressively earlier, at rate of half a day per year

### DATE OF SNOWMELT



Newborn red knots depend on “bloom” of insects that follows melt of tundra for main food supply. **Climate change is pushing bloom earlier and out of sync with red knot hatching**

## Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania

Smaller birds born in warm Arctic summers arrive in wintering grounds with shorter beaks, which prevent them from reaching quality mollusc (1) deep in sand

**Birds forced to subsist instead on lower quality molluscs (2) and seagrass (3), hampering survival**

Red knot  
(*Calidris canutus canutus*)

