

# Climate Change & Ecology

As the climate warms, the timing, scale, and location of ecological events are changing, too.

## Birds

Since 1966, North American birds seeking warmer, less variable climates have shifted their wintering grounds an average of

**46 miles northward and 10 miles inland.**

## Leaf and Bloom Dates

The timing of first leaves and blooms is happening earlier in most states, but later in the South and part of the Upper Midwest.

## Growing Season

In the contiguous United States, the growing season for crops and other plants has gotten longer in

**44 out of 48 states.**

## Ragweed Pollen Season

Ragweed season is **2 weeks longer** since 1995 for most spots in the central plains.

## Wildfires

With records going back to 1983, the **top 10 years** with largest area burned from wildfires have all happened **since 2004.**

## Snowpack

**4 out of 5** sites saw a decrease in early spring snowpack between 1955 and 2023.

**18%** decrease of snowpack across all sites, on average during this time period.

**Decreasing snowpack impacts agriculture, winter recreation, and plants and wildlife.**

Changes to snow conditions alter the timing and volume of streamflows, which can disrupt the fish and other organisms that depend on them.

## Marine Species

Since 1989, marine species off the coast of the northeast U.S. are seeking cooler waters and migrating an average of

**52 miles northward and 59 feet deeper.**



[epa.gov/climate-indicators](https://epa.gov/climate-indicators)

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