

Presenter: Every winter, many species of birds travel long distances. Do you know why? Welcome to story time, bilingual kids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning.

Have you ever gone on a long trip? Maybe you traveled to a different city or state, or even a different country. Every winter, many species of birds travel long distances, and every spring they travel all the way back.

Why do they make this journey? What's it like? Do they get frequent flyer miles? Is it dangerous? Maybe Billy can help us answer all these questions. That is very interesting,

Billy: chirping

Presenter: Billy wants to tell everyone about his big journey called migration.

Lisa: Migration, that's like a really great trip. Right?

Presenter: Good guess, Lisa. Migration is when different types of species of animals, like birds, travel from one place to another in search for things like a place to nest, warm weather, and food and water.

They usually have to go on a long journey to get there. Lingokids listeners. Imagine this. What if you went with your mom or dad to the grocery store, but there was no food there. What would you do?

Elliot: Oh, no, that would be terrible.

Presenter: Yes, Elliot, but you could just walk or drive to another grocery store to get food, right?

Elliot: I guess so.

Presenter: As it gets colder in the fall, migrating birds run out of food where they're at, so they travel to a faraway place looking for food, a place to nest, as well as to find warmer weather. Come springtime, as the weather gets warmer, birds, head back up north, following the newly budding plants and swarms of insects.

Elliot: Did you just say insects?

Cowy: Why do birds follow insects?

Presenter: To eat them.

Cowy: Eww. Yuck. Yuck.

Presenter: Cowy, please. Don't yuck. Anyone's yum. Insects are tasty food for a lot of birds. Billy says insects taste great with a little ketchup.

Lisa: I have a question for Billy. Where did you migrate from?

Presenter: Oh, Billy flew all the way from Canada.

Lisa: How long did that take?

Presenter: He says it took him about a month, but he stopped a lot on the way to do some science experiments. In general, bird migration takes anywhere from a few weeks to a few months.

Lisa: Wow, that's a long time.

Presenter: The longest migration of any bird is the Arctic tern.

Elliot: What is an Arctic tern?

Presenter: Arctic terns are small grey and white birds, who are known for their long migration patterns. They fly back and forth from Antarctica to the Arctic. That's from the top part of the earth, all the way to the bottom part. Over its lifespan, the Arctic tern travels so far, it would be like going to the moon and back three whole times.

Lisa: Oh, my, Billy, how did you prepare to migrate? What did you do to get yourself ready? Did you do lots of jumping jacks?

Presenter: Billy says, he ate and ate and ate and ate. In fact, Billy ate so much food that he grew to almost double the size he is now. That's because it took loads of energy to fly so far.

Elliot: Were you scared, Billy?

Presenter: Billy was scared. Migrating is very hard work and can be scary. A lot of birds don't make it all the way to their destination. They can run out of food, run into bad weather, or even get eaten by predators like owls and Hawks.

Elliot: That is scary. Billy, you sure are brave.

Presenter: That's right, Billy. There are now even more dangers for birds as they make this long journey. Though, all different types of species of birds have been migrating the same routes for a long time. Even thousands of years. They are now getting confused by tall building lights, radio, and TV towers. Even windows are dangerous to birds.

Cow: Billy, I have a question. How did you not get lost? Did you have a map?

Presenter: Billy says, his map is in his head. That's known as instinct. When animals are born knowing certain things. Birds also use stars and even something special called the Earth's magnetic field to help guide their way.

Lisa: I'm imagining Billy flying through thunderstorms. He had to eat insects, avoid getting eaten by predators, even avoid running into windows. He had to use his brains and his body and lots of courage, all to make it here to be with us. We sure are happy you made it, Billy.

Elliot: D'you have to migrate back?

Presenter: Billy says, he's happy right here with all of you.

Thank you Lingokids listeners for listening so well. The next time you go outside, pay careful attention to birds and maybe even give them some food for their long migrational journey. If you are ready for interactive, play learning time, explore our lingo kids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids, ages two and older, learn and develop important skills, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of play learning. See you in our next episode.

Elliot: By the way. Now you can read our podcast. If you really like us, give us five stars and help us spread the word.