DAY 3 Elearning 3rd Grade SCIENCE *NOTE: This assignment is 3 pages long.

Birds on the Move

On an early-fall day in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, a **tiny** copper-colored bird zooms around a backyard garden, attracted by the nectar-filled flowers growing there. It's a Rufous Hummingbird, pausing to refuel on its **annual journey** south from Alaska to Mexico — a trip of almost 4,000 miles.

Every year billions of birds **migrate** north in the spring and south in the fall. For some, it's a relatively short trip. Others travel thousands of miles, sometimes flying for days without landing. Not all birds **migrate**, but for those that do, it's a challenging and often dangerous **journey**.



a Rufous Hummingbird
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Migratory birds come in all shapes and sizes, from shorebirds and seabirds to raptors, songbirds, and hummingbirds. They eat different foods and live in different places. Birds **migrate** to take advantage of warm weather and enjoy a good supply of food to feed their families. How do they know when to travel, where to go, and how to get there? Bird migration is a fascinating story that scientists have been studying for many years.

Hope's Long Journey

One migratory bird that scientists have studied is a Whimbrel that scientists have named "Hope." Whimbrels are shorebirds that live in many parts of the world. Thanks to a **tiny** solar-powered transmitter attached to one of Hope's legs, scientists were able to track her migration in 2009 and 2010. On one part of her **journey**, from Southampton Island off the east coast of northern Canada to the island of St. Croix in the Caribbean, Hope flew 3,500 miles without stopping!



Comprehension Questions

1. Where do millions of birds migrate in the fall?

A. north

B. to Mexico

C. south

D. east

2. How does the author describe migration?

A. as a challenging and often dangerous journey

B. as a fun and entertaining journey

C. as something that all birds should do every year

D. as a good opportunity for birds to meet new birds

3. Migratory birds make their migration journeys in order to survive.

Answer

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

A. “Migratory birds come in all shapes and sizes, from shorebirds and seabirds to raptors, songbirds, and hummingbirds.”

B. “Every year billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall.”

C. “Birds migrate to take advantage of warm weather and enjoy a good supply of food to feed their families.”

D. “One migratory bird that scientists have studied is a Whimbrel that scientists have named ‘Hope.’”

4. What would probably happen if Hope the Whimbrel did not migrate south in the winter?

Answer

A. She would be happier in the north.

B. She would die immediately if she didn’t migrate south.

C. Nothing would change about her diet or living conditions.

D. She would probably be too cold or not have enough food.

5. What is the main idea of this passage?

Answer

A. Migratory birds travel every year for better food and weather, even though the journey can be dangerous.

B. Migratory birds sometimes travel south during the winter, and sometimes travel north, depending on what they want.

C. All migratory birds travel thousands of miles to reach their goals of better weather and food.

D. Migratory birds like Hope usually die very young because they work so hard during their migration journeys.