

Earthweek: Diary of a Changing World

Week ending Friday, October 10, 2025

By Steve Newman

Migratory Threats

A new global report warns that climate change is affecting every migratory species on Earth, altering migration routes, shrinking habitats and increasing extinction risks.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals found that 22% of listed species are endangered and 97% of migratory fish are at risk.

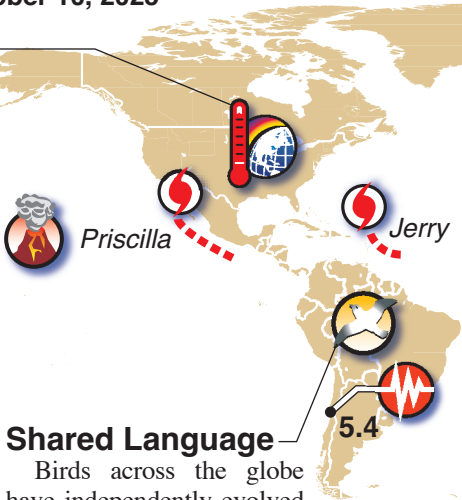
Rising temperatures, extreme weather and shifting waterways are disrupting ecosystems from the Arctic to the Amazon, delaying bird nesting, pushing elephants into populated areas and driving whales off course.

The report calls for ecological corridors to be established and for greater cooperation between nations to protect species.

Earthquakes

A sharp quake in northwestern Kyrgyzstan damaged several buildings and was felt in neighboring Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

• Tremors were also felt in China's Sichuan province, central Iran, eastern Papua New Guinea, Taiwan and central Chile.



Shared Language

Birds across the globe have independently evolved nearly identical warning cries to alert others of invasive threats, according to a study published in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.

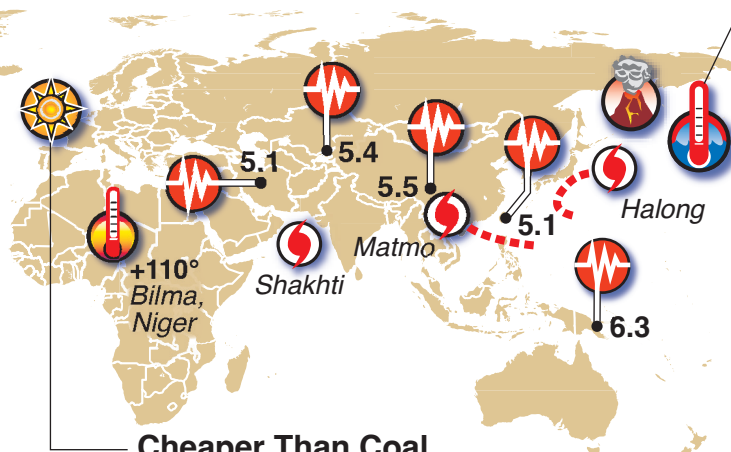
Researchers from Cornell University and Spain's Doñana Biological Station found that more than 20 bird species across four continents share a "whining" call used to identify parasitic birds — species such as cuckoos that secretly lay their eggs in other birds' nests, leaving the hosts to raise their young.

The sound, both innate and learned, represents the first known case of a vocalization shared across multiple species through social learning.

Tropical Cyclones

Hurricane Priscilla lashed western Mexico with pounding surf and strong winds before its remnants drenched northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States.

- The northern Philippines and far southern China were lashed by Typhoon Matmo. Category-4 Halong passed just off eastern Japan.
- The Leeward Islands were brushed by strengthening Hurricane Jerry.
- Category-1 Cyclone Shakhti churned the northern Arabian Sea.



Cheaper Than Coal

Solar power has become the world's cheapest energy source, now outcompeting coal, gas and even wind.

Researchers from England's University of Surrey found that falling prices for lithium-ion batteries, down 89% since 2010, and breakthroughs in solar panel materials are making clean energy cheaper.

Global solar capacity surpassed 1.5 terawatts in 2024, twice that of 2020, and enough to power hundreds of millions of homes. Still, experts warn that grid congestion and limited connectivity in high-generation regions such as California and China are wasting potential output.



All of Kilauea's activity since December is from the same eruption as magma has been following the same pathway to the surface. Photo: USGS

Marine Heat

Marine heat waves are jamming the ocean's natural carbon conveyor belt, blocking carbon from sinking to the deep sea and threatening one of Earth's key climate defenses, according to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

Studying two major heat waves in the Gulf of Alaska, scientists there found that changes in plankton communities caused carbon to build up near the surface rather than sink, weakening the ocean's ability to store carbon for centuries.

The study, published in *Nature Communications*, showed that marine heat waves alter food webs, causing the tiny oceanic grazers to recycle carbon instead of transporting it downward.

Eruptions

Far East Russia's Kronotsky volcano spewed ash high above the Kamchatka Peninsula in its most powerful activity since 1737.

- The 34th fiery episode of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano since last December shot fountains of lava taller than the Empire State Building from its summit crater during a six-hour eruption.

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