



**Project acronym:** NATALPHEN

**Project title:** Consequences of natal phenology for juvenile migratory bird' social experience and winter settlement

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**Discipline:** Earth Sciences & Environment: Ecosystems & Biodiversity

**Station(s):** Sudurnes Science and Learning Center (Iceland)

For migratory birds, timing of fledging potentially has important cascading consequences for early life that could influence the probability of settling in different parts of the winter range and subsequent survival. This is particularly acute in highly seasonal environments, such as the Arctic, where breeding conditions only occur during a short temporal window and most endemic vertebrate species are migratory. As many migratory birds do not migrate in family parties, juveniles must undertake their first autumn migration to leave the Arctic without parental guidance. However, early fledged juveniles, able to travel with conspecifics, may have opportunities to follow experienced individuals to better-quality stopover and non-breeding locations across the migratory range. This study uses a combination of intensive fieldwork and long-term data to test the association between fledging date, social experience, and foraging success and winter settlement.