



David Wilcove, a Professor of Evolutionary Biology, Ecology and Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School, has authored the new book [No Way Home: The Decline of the World's Great Animal Migrations](#), (Island Press, 2007).

In *No Way Home*, Wilcove highlights the growing threats to migratory animals and argues that the world may be witnessing a dying phenomenon among many species. Though animal migration, the author points out, has always been arduous, today's man-made impediments to migration are unprecedented.

From skyscrapers and cell towers luring birds and bats to untimely deaths, to fences and farms blocking herds of antelope, to breeding and wintering grounds being paved over or plowed - as well as the impacts of global warming disrupting the synchronized schedules of predators and prey - the result is a dramatic decline in the number of migratory animals.

Wilcove describes the barriers to migration and explains how scientific discoveries and advanced technologies are helping us understand migrations better, but notes that these alone will not stop the path to extinction some migratory species potentially face. What is required, the author asserts, is the commitment and cooperation of policy makers, public managers, conservationists, private citizens, and scientists in the various countries migratory animal cross, before extinction is a threat. As Wilcove writes, "protecting the abundance of migration is key to protecting the glory of migration."

Wilcove is one of the world's leading experts on endangered species and the author of *The Condor's Shadow: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America* (Freeman, 1999), as well as numerous scientific and popular articles on wildlife conservation. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Society for Conservation Biology. (Story courtesy of Woodrow Wilson School)