

Patterns of bird migration over The Netherlands: a classification
illustrated with radarfilm

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A selection of filmfragments will be presented in order to illustrate the complicated patterns of bird migration as we do observe them at the radarscreen. Situated in the southern part of the North Sea bassin our airspace is a crossing area of N - S and E - W bird movements.

It is not the aim of this contribution to present a full summary of all types of migratory activity occurring in The Netherlands: firstly because we do not yet fully understand all observed patterns; secondly, because we start to realize that the birds in the North Sea region behave rather flexible with respect to altitude and direction choice.

Our main intention is to show which problems we face in understanding not only how different radar settings influence the sample taken of the birds flying activity, but also how different behavioural responses of the migrants to weather, geography and light conditions influence the rate into which they enter the radarbeam and pass detection thresholds. Especially in the development of electronic counting techniques we have to know rather precisely where to put counting windows and how to interpret the measurements.