

# AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

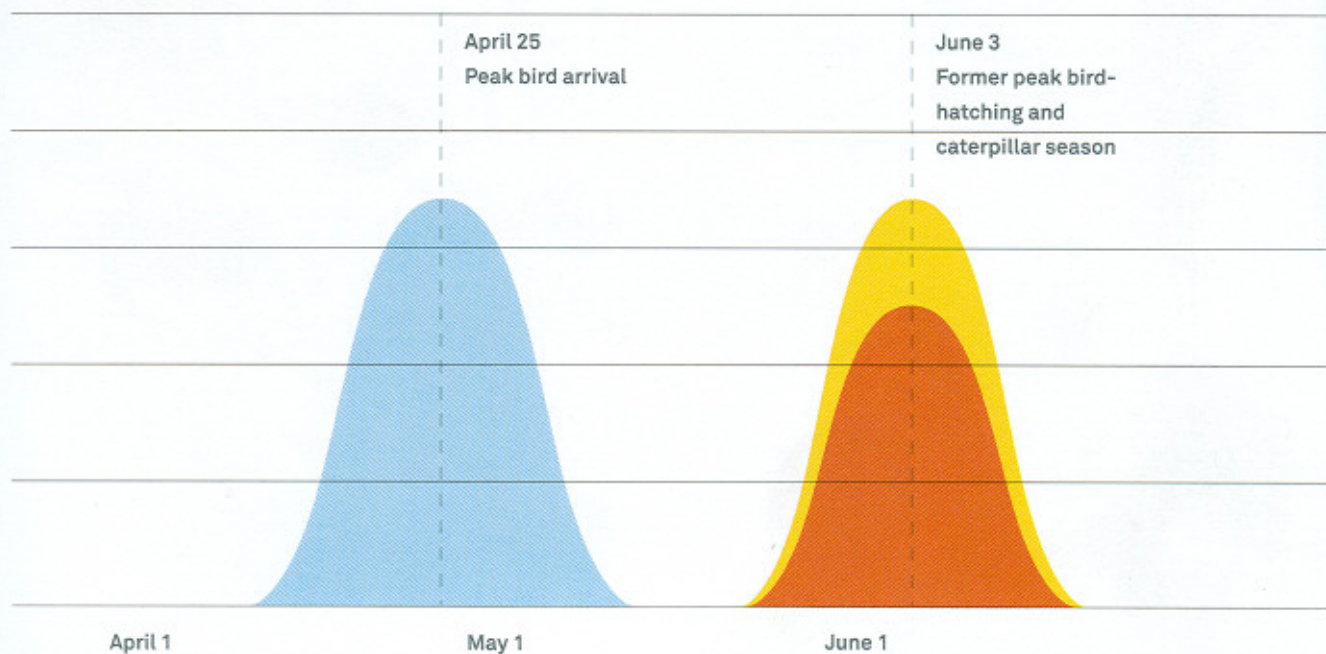
THE PLANETARY EMERGENCY OF GLOBAL WARMING AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

# AL GORE

The age-old rhythm of the Earth's seasons—summer, fall, winter, and spring—is also changing as some parts of the world heat up more rapidly than others.

SHIFTS IN SEASONS: 1980

■ Bird Arrival ■ Bird Hatching ■ Caterpillar Hatching



A study from the Netherlands, depicted below, shows that 25 years ago, the peak arrival date for the migratory birds was April 25. Their chicks hatched almost six weeks later, peaking on June 3, just in time for the height of the caterpillar season. Now, two decades of warming later, the birds still arrive in late April, but the caterpillars are peaking two weeks earlier, leaving the mother birds without their traditional source of food for the chicks. The peak hatching date has moved slightly forward, but cannot move by much. As a result, the chicks are in trouble.

Global warming is disrupting millions of delicately balanced ecological relationships among species in just this way.



BLACK TERN FEEDING YOUNG, DE WIEDEN, NORTHWEST OVERIJSEL, NETHERLANDS

SHIFTS IN SEASONS: 2000

