

Hundreds of bird species migrate to Alaska every year to raise their young in the summer and feast on the abundant and diverse plants and animals.

Canada Goose.

Birds migrate to move from areas of low resources to areas of high resources. The two main resources they are looking for are food and nesting locations. In the winter they fly south to warmer places where more food is available. In the spring they return north to places like Alaska as the weather changes. Summer in Alaska is a great place to be if you're a bird. There's lots of insects, lots of daylight, and less predators. It's also a great place to lay eggs and raise chicks!

Migrating birds use the stars for navigation, as well as the sun, wind patterns, and landforms, all of which help guide them to the same locations each year.

Tree Swallow.

Migrating geese.



Arctic Tern.

The Arctic Tern (*Phaethon rubricauda*) has the longest known migration in the animal kingdom. It travels from its Arctic breeding grounds to Antarctica and back again, covering an average of 44,000 miles (71,000 kilometers) each year. Scientists estimate that over its lifetime, an Arctic Tern migrates about 1.5 million miles (2.4 million kilometers)—equal to three trips to the moon and back!