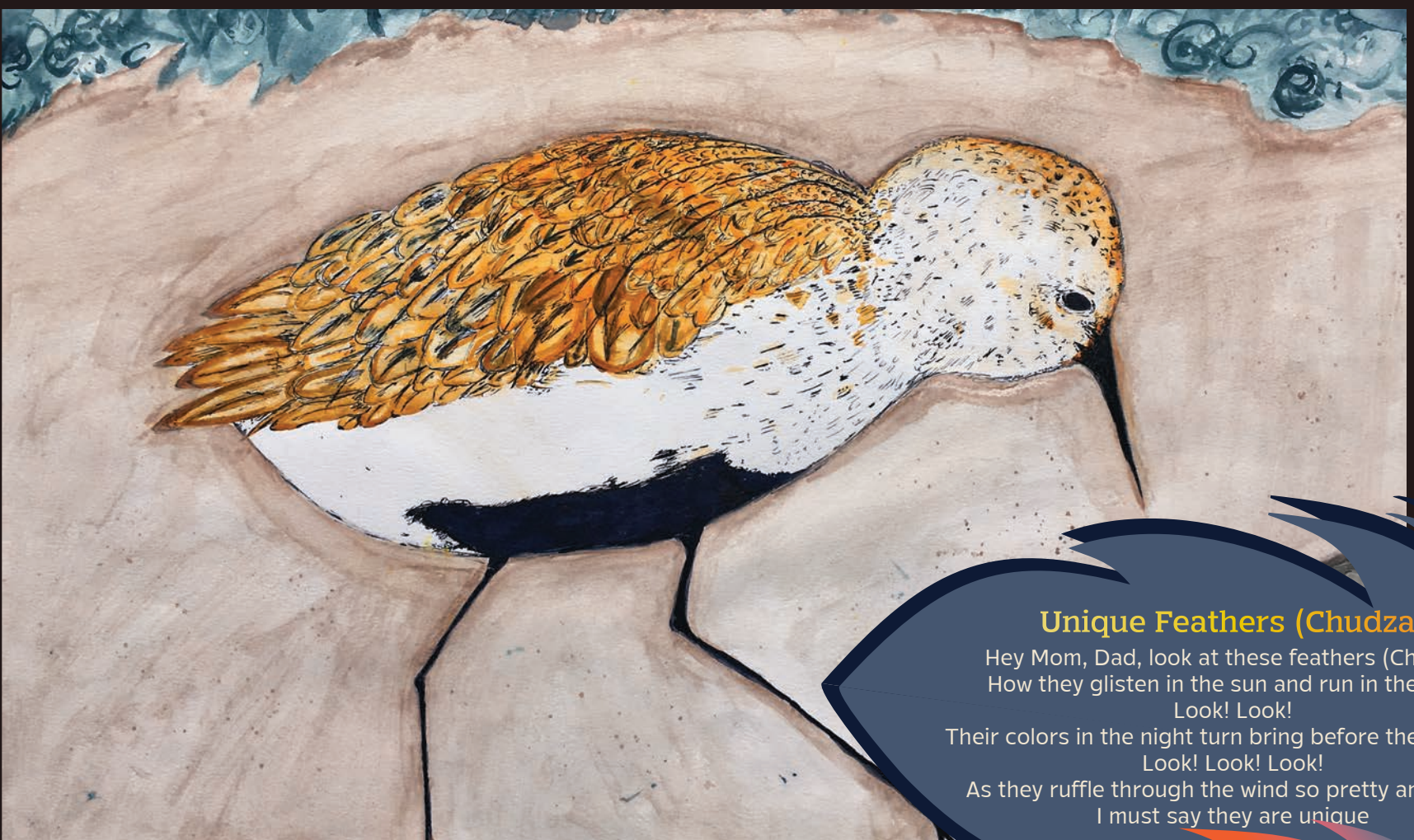


# ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CALENDAR FABULOUS FEATHERS



## Unique Feathers (Chudza)

Hey Mom, Dad, look at these feathers (Chudza)!  
How they glisten in the sun and run in the wind.

Look! Look!

Their colors in the night turn bring before the sun light.

Look! Look! Look!

As they ruffle through the wind so pretty and sleek,  
I must say they are unique

## PARTICIPATING OFFICES

**Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 69  
McGrath, AK 99627  
immoko@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges**  
P.O. Box 277  
King Salmon, Alaska 99613  
becharof@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**  
101 12th Avenue, Room 236  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
arctic\_refuge@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge**  
402 Center Avenue  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
kodiak@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Selawik National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 270  
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
selawik@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**North Slope Area Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office**  
101 12th Avenue, Room 110  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
neesha\_stellrecht@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Tellin National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 287  
Galena, Alaska 99741  
R7kywvr@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**National Wildlife Refuges**  
P.O. Box 779  
Tok, Alaska 99780  
tellin@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge**  
101 12th Avenue, Room 264  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
yukonflats@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 270  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
toglak@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar

**Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge**  
Box 346  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(800) 621-5804 or (907) 543-3151  
yukondelta@fws.gov  
Attn: Migratory Bird Calendar



## THANK YOU PARTNERS



**Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges**  
P.O. Box 2617  
Homer, AK 99603  
www.alaskarefugefriends.org



**Ducks Unlimited**  
One Waterfowl Way  
Memphis, TN 38120  
(901) 758-3825  
www.ducks.org



**Audubon Alaska**  
431 West 7th Ave., Suite 101  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 276-7034  
www.audubonalaska.org

**National Park Service**  
Alaska Public Lands Information Center  
605 W. 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 644-3678  
https://www.alaskacenters.gov/

## Future Partner?

Raise awareness of migratory bird conservation in rural Alaska – encourage your organization to become a partner in the Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar. Please contact Brett.Parks@fws.gov (907) 301-7303 or Joanne\_Bryant@fws.gov (907)888-2238

Cover art Zoe Peterson Grand Prize-winning poster. Cover literature Cayla Magnuson Grand Prize-winning poem.

# 2025

# MANAGERS' PRIME PICKS

## 2025

Eli Shugak, Grade 4, Old Harbor

### Swan Feather

Wounded swan still beautiful  
Spreads wings she feels are broken.  
Determined still to climb again.  
To clouds that call her home.  
Broken bird so painful  
So, to those she's know and  
Those who've known her.  
Hopeful song it soothes the gentle rain.  
A fallen dream no destiny it seems.  
But few know her resolve.

Dominic Cleveland, Grade 4, Selawik

### Common Loon

They eat fish and more.  
The feathers are waterproof.  
They have baby loons.



Leah Rosete, Grade 10, Sand Point School



Kirra Sweetsir, Grade 8, Galena



Alannah Johnson, Grade 2, Selawik

## Enter to be in the 2024 Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar!

Submit a poster or poem to your closest U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office (see back cover for addresses).  
Visit [www.fws.gov/alaska/external/kids.htm](http://www.fws.gov/alaska/external/kids.htm) to learn more, read the contest rules and download an entry form.

## YOU COULD WIN 4 DIFFERENT WAYS!

### 1

#### LOCAL CONTEST

Five local judges choose 12 poster and 12 literature winners (three in each grade category).

### 2

#### STATEWIDE CONTEST

Local winners are sent to Anchorage for statewide judging and out of those, 12 poster and 12 literature winners will be printed and receive fun prizes.

### 3

#### MANAGERS' PRIME PICKS

If your local participating refuge or office does not have a winner in the statewide judging, the manager selects one Prime Pick to be published in the calendar.

### 4

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Every student submitting an entry receives recognition with a Certificate of Appreciation for participating.

GRAND PRIZE  
POSTER

Zoe Peterson  
Grade 7  
Old Harbor



GRAND PRIZE  
LITERATURE

Cayla Magnuson  
Grade 7  
McGrath

### Unique Feathers (Chudza)

Hey Mom, Dad, look at these feathers (Chudza)!  
How they glisten in the sun and run in the wind.  
Look! Look!  
Their colors in the night turn bring before the sun light.  
Look! Look! Look!  
As they ruffle through the wind so pretty and sleek,  
I must say they are unique

Yup'ik for January is **IRALULL'ER**  
or "Ugly moon with bitter cold."

# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			New Year's Day 1	2	3	4
National Bird Day 5	6	Russian Orthodox Christmas 7	8	9	10	11
	● FIRST QUARTER					
12	13	Russian Orthodox New Year 14	15	16	17	18
	○ FULL MOON					
19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 20	21	22	23	24	25
		● LAST QUARTER				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			● NEW MOON			

### Fun Fact

Yup'ik people have used the feathers and skins of migratory birds to make warm waterproof parkas and atasuaq (a one-piece for infants made of bird skin with the feathers facing inward) since time before memory.

2025



Clara Johnson  
Grade 2  
Koliganek

Katrina Grenda  
Grade 7  
King Salmon

### My Feathers

Feather colors can blend, and that's what we adore.  
Feathers will never end, there will always be more.  
Feathers help birds fly, sometimes very high,  
And helps them descend, flying end to end.

There's white and black, there's teal and green.  
Some feathers fall as colors in between.  
This ensures they'll never be seen,  
On their seasonal migratory routine.

Yup'ik for February is  
**KANRUYAUCIQ** or "Frosty Moon."

# February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Groundhog Day 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		● FIRST QUARTER				
9	10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day 14 2026 Calendar Contest Deadline The Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 14-17	15
			○ FULL MOON			
16	President's Day 17	18	19	20	21	22
				● LAST QUARTER		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
				● NEW MOON		

### Fun Fact

Did you know the feathers of some owls glow bright pink under blacklight? Biologists can estimate how old a bird is by looking at how many, and which of the feathers glow.

2025



Mattlyn Simmons  
Grade 1  
McGrath

Birds

- Birds can fly
- Birds can get food for their babies
- Birds feathers make their babies warm
- Birds can fly
- Birds feathers can hide their babies from predators
- Mama birds feathers protect from predators

Aleut for March is **ULAN ILAN QAĠĪX**  
or "Eating inside month."

# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	Ash Wednesday 5	6	7	8
Daylight Saving Time Begins 9	10	11	12	FIRST QUARTER National Wildlife Refuge System's Birthday 13	14	15
16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	FULL MOON Spring Equinox: 1:01am AK time 20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	LAST QUARTER 29
30	Seward's Day 31					NEW MOON

**Fun Fact**

Tuullik (yellow-billed loons) are an important part of Inupiat culture. Headdresses made of their spotted feathers and beak are worn during traditional dances at Kivgiq, also known as the Messenger Feast.



Cayla Magnuson  
Grade 7  
McGrath

Noelle Grossmann  
Grade 2  
Port Alsworth

Feathers falling from the sky,  
Feathers floating very high.  
Birds fly by,  
Fabulous colored feathers fall from the sky.  
In the wind feathers fly by once more!

Aleut for April is **SADAAGAN QAGIX**  
or "Eating from outside."

# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		April Fool's Day 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Easter 20	21	Earth Day 22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**Fun Fact**  
All birds molt, or replace their feathers, during their lifetime. That's why their appearance can change from bright flashy colors during the breeding season, to patchy and dull during other parts of the year. Some migratory birds, like waterfowl, molt all of their flight feathers at once and are completely flightless for a period of time, while others, like raptors only molt a few flight feathers at a time and never lose the ability to fly.



Eva Welch  
Grade 12  
McGrath

### Feathers of Birds

Birds, the majestic creature of the sky,  
With Feather that shimmer, catch the eye  
Their colors so vibrant, a glorious display,  
A true masterpiece, nature's own bouquet  
Feathers, oh feathers, what an exquisite are,  
Each one unique, playing its own part  
From cardinal red to peacock blue,  
A symphony of hues brought to life anew

Feathers, oh feathers, so delicate and light,  
Yet sturdy and strong, defying the night  
A testament to resilience, a symbol of hope,  
Birds and their feathers, forever in scope  
In a world where chaos often prevails,  
Birds and their feathers, a story that never fails  
A reminder on nature's wonders and its art,  
A melody of beauty, forever in our heart

So let us cherish, protect, and adore,  
The birds and their feathers, forevermore  
For they are a gift, a treasure so rare,  
A reminder to appreciate, to love, and to care  
In the end, it is their feathers that bind,  
A world of colors, dreams intertwined  
So let us take flight, like birds in the sky,  
And embrace the beauty that surrounds you and I

Gwich'in Athabascan for May is **GWILUU ZHRII**  
or "Hard-crusted snow from night freeze."

# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 World Migratory Bird Day
● FIRST QUARTER						
Mother's Day 11	12	13	14	15	Endangered Species Day 16	17
	○ FULL MOON					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		● LAST QUARTER				
25	Memorial Day 26	27	28	29	30	31
		● NEW MOON				

**Fun Fact**  
Researchers have discovered an unexpected way that migratory birds keep their cool during their long and arduous journeys: lighter-colored feathers. Lighter surfaces absorb less heat than darker ones, as anybody wearing dark clothes on a sunny day can attest!

# Yukon Kuskokwim Delta



Erik McGee  
Grade 9  
Port Alsworth

## The Feather

Walking down the shores of Lake Clark,  
I see a wispy shape floating down to the rocky ground.  
It looks so dainty from this vantage point.  
I watch as it twirls and spins  
It almost looks like a tiny bird.

When it hits the ground, I go pick it up.  
It is a feather, from the mighty bald eagle.  
It's amazing how something so dainty  
Can come from something so strong.

Gwich'in Athabascan for June is **VANAN CH'IIGHOO**  
or "Animals are carrying young."

# June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Summer Solstice: 6:42pm AK time	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### Fun Fact

In Athabascan Gwich'in culture, the feather (Tsu) (Eagle, Ptarmigan, Owl, Hawk, Raven's feathers) holds a significant place spiritually (it can be put in a coffin, used when dancing, or passed around in a talking circle). It's often beautifully decorative with beads and skin that symbolize and provide protection in ceremonial purposes and also has story telling connections to the birds.





Josiah Brown  
Grade 7  
Newtok

Crane

Birds have feathers, but there  
Something even better.

The feathers are always good looking,  
But all of us always took it.

All of the birds fly, but I always  
Want to cry.

All of the crane are always bigger,  
But I always want to pull the trigger.

All of the bird poop, but we  
Can make the bird soup.

The crane always have a red dot,  
But it always hit the spot.

Ahtna for July is **COTS' NA'AYE**  
or "Feathers/down/fluff month."

# July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Fun Fact**

Male Wilson's snipes have specialized tailfeathers that make a winnowing sound created by air passing over the feathers. The sound is so similar to the call of a boreal owl that the two are often confused for each other. The best way to tell them apart is that the location of the snipe's "call" will shift as the bird flies through the air, while a boreal owl stays in one place when calling.



Hadleigh McGlashan  
Grade 2  
Sand Point

Tanisha Johnson  
Grade 5  
Bethel

### Color of Calm

When I am angry, I go outside  
As I am cooling down, I see a bird  
Pretty, cute, and fluffy feathers moving from side to side.  
I feel lots of colors—red, white, black, and dark brown—wanting to be heard  
Some have rainbow wings that shine,  
Like the stars in the sky, they're by design.  
These beautiful colored wings always reminds  
Of the peace I hope to again find

Ahtna for August is **HWTSIIC NA'AYE'**  
or "Leaves fall down month."

# August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### Fun Fact

The Iñupiaq name for the Steller's eider is Igniqautuq, meaning the "duck that sat in the camp fire" because the feathers on the male duck's chest and belly are the color of burnt wood...or toasted marshmallows!

FABULOUS FEATHERS

FABULOUS FEATHERS



Riley Boskofsky  
Grade 5  
Ouzinkie

**M**oonlight shines  
**m**Allards quack  
**L**ovely ducklings swim in the back.  
**L**ots of downy feathers on the sand  
**A** cool duck that lives on this land  
**R**aise your wings and fly like the  
Then **D**unk down and catch a good thing.

Alutiiq for September is  
**ALUSASTUAM YA'ALLUA**  
or "The silver salmon's moon."

# September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Labor Day Lead shot was banned in Alaska in 1991	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	Autumn Equinox: 10:19am AK time	22	23	24	25	26
27	National Public Lands Day	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30				

### Fun Fact

What actually makes water roll off a duck's back? Birds waterproof their feathers by preening; where they rub their beaks against the preen gland near their tail to collect oil and rub it over their feathers.



Yaretzi Mejorada  
Grade 2  
King Salmon

### Rainbow Feathers

Rainbow birds are colorful birds.  
They are special!  
The rainbow in the sky  
Has the same colors as the birds.  
The birds fly in the sky  
With the rainbow.

Alutiiq for October is  
**KAKEGLLUM IRALUA'**  
or "The moon of runny nose."

# October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus Day)	14	15	16	17	18 Alaska Day Observed
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

### Fun Fact

Owls have specialized wing feathers that allow them to fly and hunt almost silently. While other birds often make flapping sounds in flight, owl wing feathers have a stiff leading edge and soft fringe on the trailing edge which lets air slide silently over the feather and allows the owl to flap its wings without alerting potential prey.

# Dreaming of Fabulous Feathers

Katrina Grenda  
Grade 7  
King Salmon



Brandy Hendren-Rice  
Grade 10  
Tok

## A Feather

Flickering the sunlight  
Drifting, dancing, descending.  
It floated to my feet.  
Lines, strands, and shades of brown.  
It feels like spring wind.  
It smells of many places.  
What is it used for?

To beat the air?  
To stroke the water?  
To catch the eyes?  
To warm the insides?  
Questions unfold as answer are found.  
I want to know more,  
But it slipped from my hands to, again, travel with the wind.

Inupiaq for November is  
**NIPPIVIK**  
or "Sunset time."

# November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Daylight Saving Time ends	2	3	4	5	6	7
				○ FULL MOON		
9	10	Veterans Day	11	12	13	14
			● LAST QUARTER			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			● NEW MOON			
23	24	25	26	Thanksgiving Day	27	28
						29
30						
					● FIRST QUARTER	

### Fun Fact

It's a good thing eider down is so warm! Instead of leaving for warmer weather in winter, spectacled eiders spend the entire winter on the sea ice south of Saint Lawrence Island. They use gaps in the ice to dive to the bottom of the Bering Sea and feed on clams and then rest on the sea ice between dives.

2025



Kaitlyn Alexie  
Grade 5  
McGrath

Oh Sweet little swan, dark as night  
Comes out as the moon chases off the light  
Oh sweet little swan, heart of gold,  
While others are italic she's in bold

Oh sweet little swan, gliding peacefully around her pond  
To help you fall asleep, in just one little song  
Oh sweet little swan, she just has that glow  
Her fabulous feathers...shall steal the show.

Inupiaq for December is  
**SIQIŃĜILIAQ**  
or "No sunshine."

# December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				○ FULL MOON		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				● LAST QUARTER		
Christmas Bird Count Dec. 14 - Jan. 5	14	15	16	17	18	19
					● NEW MOON	
Winter Solstice: 6:03am AK Time	21	22	23	24	Christmas Day 25	26
						● FIRST QUARTER
28	29	30	31			

### Fun Fact

While migration distances vary, many migratory bird species fly thousands of miles each year. These long journeys tend to wear out feathers. Scientists compared the variation in distances traveled to the extent of molt in a particular species and found that birds that go farther distances replace more feathers.