

## Alaska's Wild Wonders 2021: Mighty Migrators

### Vocabulary list

**Migration** - the periodic (annual or seasonal) movement of animal populations from one region to another and back again.

**Habitat** - the place where an animal lives and which provides food, water, shelter (or cover), and space in a suitable arrangement that an organism needs to survive.

**Round-trip migration** – A migration where an animal moves from one area to another, and then back again, often to a specific summer breeding ground and then wintering area.

**Summer range/summer breeding ground** – areas where animals spend the summer, and in some cases a specific area where animals return to breed each year.

**Winter range/wintering ground** – an area animals return to each winter for food and cover

**Altitudinal migration** – a short-distance animal migration from lower altitudes (generally in winter) to higher altitudes (generally in summer) for food and protection from predators

**Terrestrial** – an animal that spends most of their life/time on land.

**Calving grounds** – specifically for caribou, females return to the same area year after year to give birth to their calves. Each population or “herd” of caribou generally has their own calving areas.

**Radiocollar** – a collar with an attached radio transmitter so that a biologist with a receiver can track an animal in its natural habitat.

**GPS location** – GPS stands for “Global positioning system”; GPS is a radio navigation system that allows users to determine their exact location, anywhere in the world, using GPS satellites. GPS devices use the signals from three or more satellites to determine exact locations (this is sometimes called triangulation).

**VHF radio signal** – VHF stands for “very high frequency”; VHF transmitters emit signals at specific frequencies and wavelengths, that can be detected by VHF receivers, which often includes a radio box and attached antenna. For example, radiocollars often have VHF signals that a biologist can listen to using a receiver.

**Lichen** - a living thing formed by an alga and fungus growing together in symbiosis. They often grow in harsh conditions that are too exposed for other plants.

**Wingspan** – the maximum distance measure across the wings of a bird or other flying animal.

**Magnetic field** – the area around a magnet in which there is magnetic force. Electrical charges generate a magnetic field; the earth has its own magnetic field.

**Omnivore** – a living thing that eats both plants and animals.

**Incubate** – when a bird sits on eggs so they will be warm enough to develop and hatch

**Thermal** – a rising body of warm air

**Navigate** – to travel across, along or through; to plan, manage or control the course

**Benthic** – occurring at the bottom of a body of water (e.g., on the seafloor)

**Forage** – to search for food

**Ice floe** – a sheet of floating ice

**Dive duration** – the amount of time an aquatic animal spends underwater on a single dive

**Dive depth** – the distance from the surface of the water an animal goes during a dive

**Continuous** – going on without any stops, breaks, or pauses

**Salinity** – a measurement of how much salt is in the water, usually how many grams of salt there is per 1000 grams of water.

**Ungulate** – a mammal with hooves (e.g., deer, goat, sheep, caribou, moose)

**Alpine** – area in mountains above the elevation where trees grow

**Interval** – a period of time between two events