

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. The slopes are covered in green vegetation, with several patches of snow or ice scattered across the landscape. A small waterfall is visible on the left side of the image. The overall scene is rugged and scenic.

# Alaska! And the Pacific Flyway Council!

New perspectives on birds and bird management

Alaska, by the numbers.

570,00 square miles - over twice the size of Texas

8 national parks. By area over half of the national park land system.

16 NWR

565 species of birds seen there. WY = 449 CA = 703

49<sup>th</sup> state, entered the union in 1959

Over 700,000 people

## Pacific Flyway Council

Made up of the 12 states west of the Continental Divide: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana.

New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana are split by the Continental Divide and are also in the Central Flyway and that council.

Federal FWS and other partners help in the process, but the state representatives are the ones that have a vote in decisions.

The Study Committee is involved in deciding hunting seasons and other management associated with birds like ducks, geese, cranes, doves, etc.

The Nongame Technical Committee involves itself in decisions about birds that aren't hunted normally, such as raptors, ravens, cormorants, passerines, etc.

The Committees meet twice a year, rotated among the member states based on the chairperson for that year. Wyoming hosts in 2024.

































































































































































































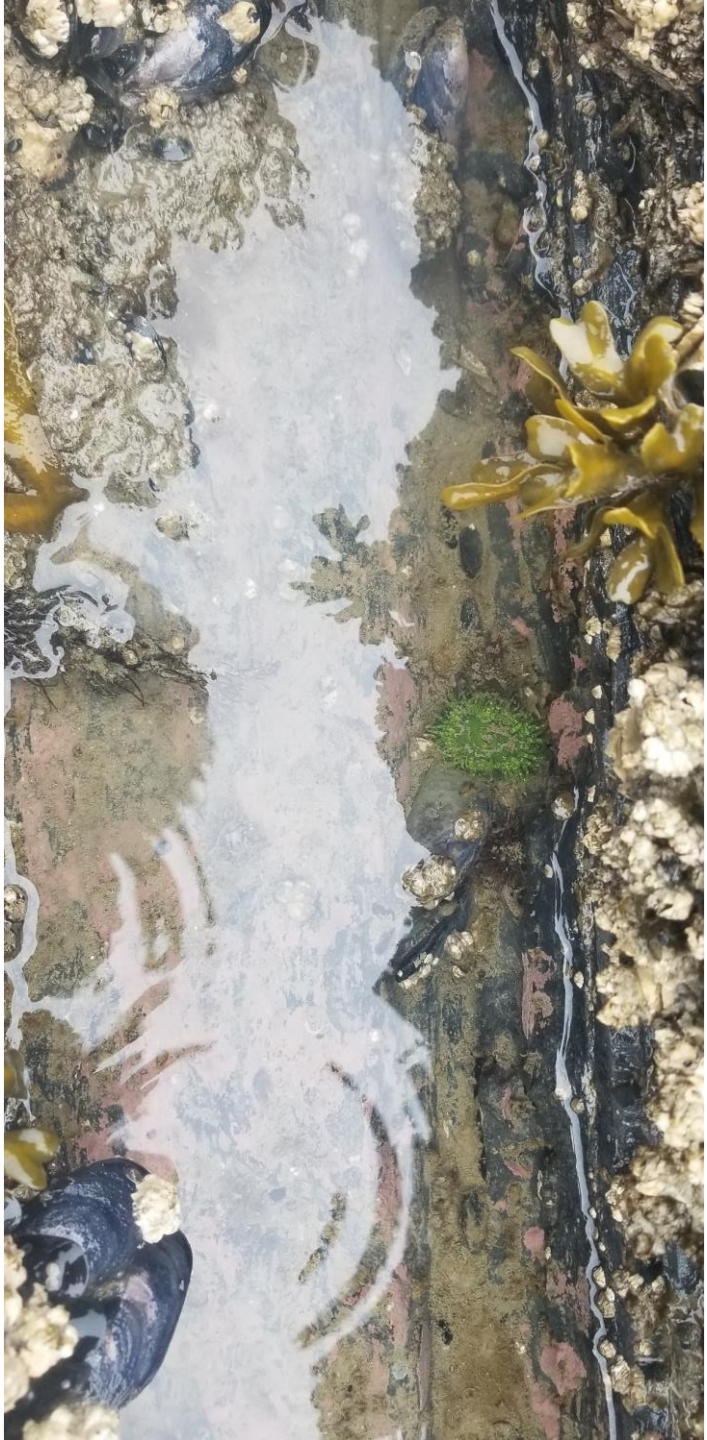


























But Grant, what about the birds?

Answer: Their coming!



SRE





































































































# Swans

Trumpeter swans are a protected species in WY.

By the 1930's, fewer than 100 remained south of Canada

Wyoming continues to have a program to expand both the range and numbers of nesting swans.

Their smaller cousin, the Tundra swan, is numerous in other states though.

Utah, for example, has a swan hunting season, but every swan has to be checked, and when a certain number of trumpeter swans get killed, the season is closed.





# Bald eagles

Protected by Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act since 1940

Formerly listed under the Endangered Species Act also

In Alaska, bounties were paid on eagles from 1917 to 1953 because of perceived threats to salmon industry

Over 120,000 bounties were paid, but there were obviously more killed

When Alaska became a state in 1959, bald eagles came under the protection of the Eagle Act





# Common raven

An intelligent bird, it takes advantage of resources and infrastructure provided by man

Has become a threat to a variety of different creatures: Greater sage grouse in the interior west, desert tortoise in the desert areas, several bird species along the coast

They also have their fans and defenders

FWS is trying to work out a system where the conflicting needs of different protected species can be accounted for.

This leads us to -





# Double-crested cormorants

The Columbia River between OR and WA used to have a large salmon run, which the FWS is attempting to restore

A great deal of shipping uses the river as well, and dredging is done to create deep channels

The material that gets dredged has been deposited in one area long enough to create a large, permanent, flat island that is great for nesting

DCCO have found a perfect place to nest and raise their young with a large supply of government-supplied salmon to feed them





# Caspian tern

Caspian terns nesting in the same area are having the opposite problem – their numbers are decreasing

The large number of protected bald eagles in the area fly by their nesting areas, causing them to flush, and...

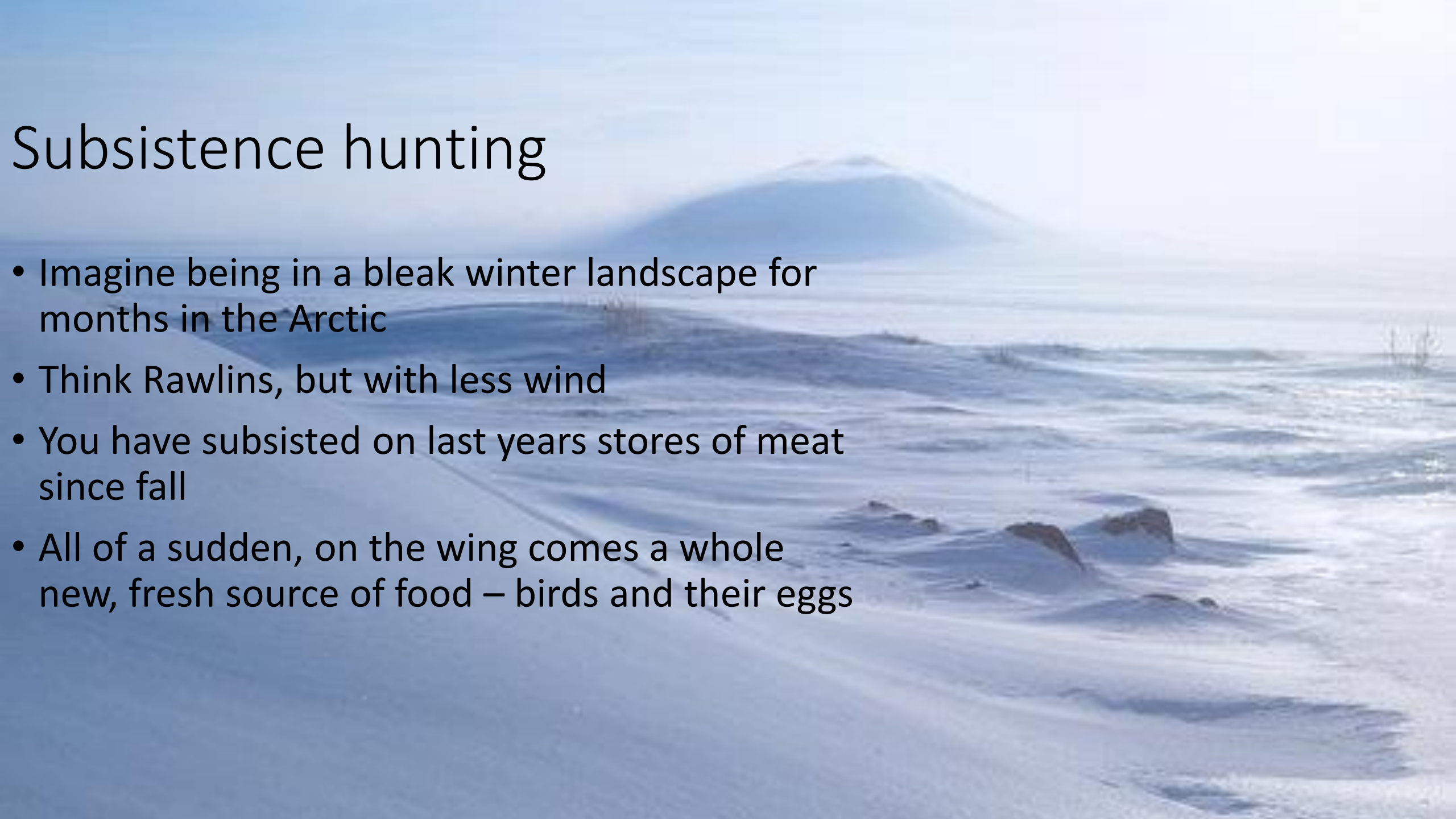
The large number of protected gulls fly in and eat their eggs or young





# Subsistence hunting

- Imagine being in a bleak winter landscape for months in the Arctic
- Think Rawlins, but with less wind
- You have subsisted on last years stores of meat since fall
- All of a sudden, on the wing comes a whole new, fresh source of food – birds and their eggs





# Regulations for the 2023 Alaska Subsistence Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Harvest



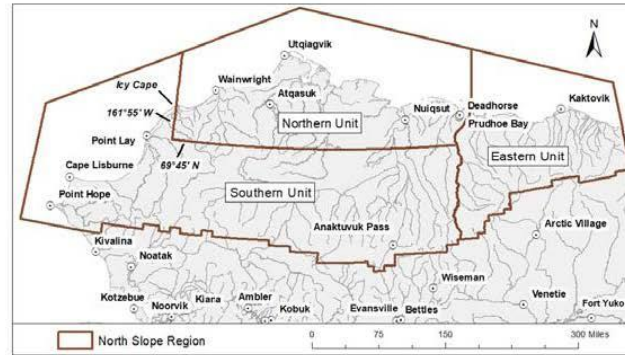
Conservation through Co-Management

*Effective April 2 - August 31, 2023*

*[https://www.fws.gov/office/alaska-migratory-birds/  
alaska-migratory-bird-co-management-council](https://www.fws.gov/office/alaska-migratory-birds/alaska-migratory-bird-co-management-council)*



# North Slope Region



## All North Slope Units:

*Yellow-billed loons* - Yellow-billed loons that are inadvertently entangled in subsistence fishing nets may be kept for subsistence use. Individuals must report each yellow-billed loon found entangled in fishing nets to the North Slope Borough Dept. of Wildlife (907) 852-0350 by Aug. 31.

*Black Brant – no egg gathering is permitted.*

*Emperor Goose – no egg gathering is permitted.*

**Southern Unit** (Southwestern North Slope regional boundary northeast to Icy Cape, and everything west of longitude line 161° 55' W and south of latitude line 69° 45' N to the west bank of the Sagavanirktok River and south along the west bank to the North Slope regional boundary, then west to the beginning).

- Season: April 2–June 29 and July 30–August 31 (seabirds).  
April 2–June 19 and July 20–August 31 (all other birds).
- \*Closure: June 30–July 29 (seabirds).  
June 20–July 19 (all other birds).

**Eastern Unit** (East of eastern bank of the Sagavanirktok River)

- Season: April 2–June 19 and July 20–August 31
- \*Closure: June 20–July 19



# Migratory Birds Open for Harvest

You may harvest birds or gather eggs from the following species, within all included areas, except where region-specific restrictions apply (see Region-Specific Regulations on pages 9-26). All bird species not listed are closed to hunting and egg gathering.

## Waterfowl

- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Emperor Goose
- Canada Goose
- Cackling Goose
- Black Brant
- Tundra Swan
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- King Eider
- Common Eider
- Harlequin Duck
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser

## Waterbirds

- Red-throated Loon
- Arctic Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon
- Yellow-billed Loon - North Slope Region only (see page 16)
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe

## Shorebirds

- Black-bellied Plover
- Common Ringed Plover
- Black Oystercatcher
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Spotted Sandpiper

- Ruddy Turnstone
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Common Snipe
- Wilson's Snipe
- Red Phalarope
- Red-necked phalarope

## Seabirds

- Northern Fulmar
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Mew Gull
- Herring Gull
- Slaty-backed Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Sabine's Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Red-legged Kittiwake
- Ivory Gull
- Arctic Tern
- Aleutian Tern
- Common Murre
- Thick-billed Murre
- Black Guillemot
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Cassin's Auklet
- Parakeet Auklet
- Least Auklet
- Whiskered Auklet
- Crested Auklet
- Rhinoceros Auklet
- Horned Puffin
- Tufted Puffin

## Cranes

- Sandhill Crane

## Owls

- Great Horned Owl
- Snowy Owl



# Use of Inedible Bird Parts in Authentic Native Handicrafts for Sale

- Only Alaska Natives may sell or re-sell an “authentic native article of handicraft or clothing” that contains an inedible byproduct of a bird taken for food during the Alaska migratory bird subsistence harvest season. Eligibility can be shown by Tribal Enrollment Card, Bureau of Indian Affairs card, or membership in the Silver Hand program.
- All sales and transportation of sold items are restricted to within the United States.
- Each sold item must be accompanied by either a certification (FWS Form 3-2484) signed by the artist or a Silver Hand insignia. Purchasers must retain this documentation and produce it upon the request of a Law Enforcement Officer.
- “Sales by consignment” are allowed. Each consigned item must be accompanied by either a certification (FWS Form 3-2484) signed by the artist or a Silver Hand insignia. All consignees, sellers, and purchasers must retain this documentation with each item and produce it upon the request of a Law Enforcement Officer. All consignment sales are restricted to within the United States.

**Only these bird species can be used in handicrafts:**

- |                    |                            |                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| • Common Loon      | • White-winged Scoter      | • Wilson’s Snipe       |
| • Tundra Swan      | • Barrow’s Goldeneye       | • Bonaparte’s Gull     |
| • Blue-winged Teal | • Hooded Merganser         | • Mew Gull             |
| • Redhead          | • Pacific Loon             | • Red-legged Kittiwake |
| • Ring-necked Duck | • Double-crested Cormorant | • Arctic Tern          |
| • Greater Scaup    | • Black Oystercatcher      | • Black Guillemot      |
| • Lesser Scaup     | • Lesser Yellowlegs        | • Cassin’s Auklet      |
| • King Eider       | • Semipalmated Sandpiper   | • Great Horned Owl     |
| • Common Eider     |                            |                        |
| • Surf Scoter      | • Western Sandpiper        |                        |