

Millions of birds and salmon

In any given year, **millions of birds** arrive from around the globe to breed, forage, or rest in Bristol Bay. Perhaps nowhere else on Earth is so important to so many birds from so many different continents. At the same time, **tens of millions of salmon** swim through Bristol Bay each year, providing a foundation for both the local economy, as well as the staggering number of birds.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE MIGRANT BIRDS

- **Millions of shearwaters** (Sooty and Short-tailed) that nest south of the equator arrive in Bristol Bay each summer to forage, while the Southern Hemisphere undergoes its cold season.
- The Short-tailed Shearwater is the most abundant of these Southern Hemisphere visitors, numbering in the tens of millions (see top photo for a “**megaflock**” of shearwaters).

LOCAL NESTING BIRDS

- **Over a million breeding seabirds**, including

Common Murres, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Tufted Puffins, nest around Bristol Bay.

- At least 75 marine bird species and 24 shorebird species nest in Bristol Bay.
- About 15,000 Tundra Swans breed in Bristol Bay’s lowlands.

SPECIAL SPECIES

- **Low millions of shorebirds** stage in Bristol Bay’s rich coastal estuaries during the fall and spring, making the region one of the most important shorebird areas in North America.
- Nearly the **entire global populations** of Emperor Goose and Pacific Black Brant use Izembek Lagoon in the southern portion of Bristol Bay.
- Bristol Bay is a **global stronghold** for Steller’s Eider, a federally threatened species.



Colony of Common Murres. Photo: Donna Dewhurst/USFWS.



Tufted Puffin. Photo: Peter David/USFWS.

- An estimated **75% of the Pacific Black Scoter** population spends time in the Bristol Bay region.
- About **40% of the western population** of King Eiders winters or migrates through Bristol Bay.

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MILLION

pelagic seabirds may arrive from the Southern Hemisphere to forage and rest at Bristol Bay during the northern summer months.

CONSERVE THIS REMARKABLE RESOURCE

- Maintain EPA 404(c) protections to the Bristol Bay region. A large-scale open-pit mine, such as the proposed Pebble Mine, is an untenable risk to the region’s millions of salmon and birds.
- Oppose roads through protected areas, including through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.
- Reduce oil spill risk and wildlife impacts by finalizing shipping routes and areas to be avoided.

LEARN MORE:

<http://ak.audubon.org/conservation/bristol-bay>

ABOUT AUDUBON ALASKA:

Audubon Alaska works to conserve the spectacular birds and wildlife—and their habitats—in Alaska to ensure their place for future generations.



Bristol Bay receives well-deserved attention for its natural value, with 27 globally-significant Important Bird Areas, 2 National Parks, 4 National Wildlife Refuges, 2 Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites, 1 Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, 1 National Monument, and 1 State Park.