



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Welfare



DECEMBER 2022

ANIMAL NEWS

BIRD MIGRATION Via the PACIFIC FLYWAY!

The Pacific Flyway is a "superhighway in the sky" that stretches over 4,000 miles from the Arctic to Patagonia and hosts over a billion birds each year.

- Have you seen any unusual birds in your neighborhood lately? Each night, thousands of birds may fly through your neighborhood, even at night! Birds flying through may stop and rest a bit before they continue their journey from the colder northern climates to the warmer southern climates during our winter season. The Pacific Flyway is the path birds travel near us. It is one of four major routes birds take across the United States to travel from the tip of North America to the tip of South America.
- **LONGEST FLYER:** Arctic Tern flies about 30,000 miles/year: North Pole to South Pole and back as the weather changes.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

- Bird clubs and organizations like the Audubon Society help track bird migrations during special coordinated counting events. One of the counting events, is the Christmas Bird Count, an annual event since 1900, joined by scientists in the US and Canada between December 14 and January 5.

A CLOSER LOOK

[LINK TO THE AUDUBON ADVENTURES ISSUE & QUIZ!](#)



BIRDS, WHALES, BUTTERFLIES & WILDBEESTS

- Many species migrate or move locations to breed, find food, hibernate, or survive during times of extreme heat or cold. Although more birds migrate, mammals, fish, insects, among others animals migrate too.
- Bats in northern parts of the world fly south for the winter.
- Northern Humpback Whales may travel almost 10,000 miles/year from the equator to Oregon and back. Gray whales migrate through California waters from December through May and can be viewed via whale watching tours or occasionally from land at Point Reyes or Half Moon Bay. tours leave from Monterey Bay as well.
- Mule deer in the western US travel from higher to lower parts of the same mountains in winter.
- Some earthworms move from the top of the soil to deeper underground.
- The Northern Monarch Butterfly on the East Coast travels 6,000 miles/year from Canada to Mexico and back. Some western Monarchs winter at the Ardenwood Historic Farm and at the [Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History Monarch Habitat Sanctuary](#), where you can view them Wed-Sun except Dec 14.
- Adult Chinook Salmon pass under the Golden Gate Bridge from November through May, and pass into the Sacramento River from December through early August.

HOW DO THEY FIND THEIR WAY?

- Scientists think that animals use rivers, mountains, the position of the sun and stars, or their sense of smell to find their way along complicated routes.

December Animal Holidays

- Christmas Bird Count Week - December 14 - January 5
- International Cheetah Day - December 4
- World Wildlife Conservation Day - December 4
- International Day of Veterinary Medicine - December 9
- National Llama Day - December 9
- Festival for the Souls of Dead Whales - December 10
- International Animal Rights Day - December 10
- National Day of Animal Rights - December 10
- Holiday Food Drive for Needy Animals Day - December 11
- National Day of the Horse - December 13
- Monkey Day - December 14
- Visit the Zoo Day - December 27



AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



CLOCKING THE GREAT WILDBEEST (GNU) MIGRATION

- Wildebeest travel about 300 miles annually in a **CLOCKWISE** direction. What does **CLOCKWISE** direction mean and why do you think the wildebeest always moves along that path? **[ANSWER: Scientists believe they follow the weather patterns to find fresh grass, but actually do not know for sure]**
- **WHERE's the WILDBEEST?** If the Serengeti were a clock, where would the wildebeest be at 3:00? **[ANSWER: At their December residence]**

WILDBEEST MIGRATION MEDIA

- **A SONG FOR YOUNGSTERS ABOUT MIGRATION! [LINK TO A YOUTUBE VIDEO FROM MRS. R'S SONGS FOR TEACHING](#)**
- **WHY DO BIRDS AND ANIMALS MIGRATE? [LINK TO A YOUTUBE VIDEO MIGRATIONS: BIG ANIMAL TRIPS | SCIENCE FOR KIDS](#)**

