

Spring Migration: March through May 2005

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ON THE COVER: With each passing season, “global warming” moves more and more from the margins of scientific theory to the status of observable fact. As the spring 2005 “Changing Seasons” essay notes, the tempo of ever-earlier spring arrivals and nestings appears to be quickening around the world. As southerly species are found farther and farther north, some Arctic species, such as Ivory Gull, appear to be declining rapidly in number, apparently response to radical changes in their environment: it is estimated that Canadian populations of this species have declined by 80% in the past twenty years. This image of an adult Ivory Gull was taken 13 May 2005 on the west beach of Gambell, Alaska. Photograph by Brad Benter/U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.