



# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ October 1, 2010 ~

Each week leading up to the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** on December 6, 2010, we will be sending you an Arctic Truth newsletter highlighting an **Arctic Hero**, an **Arctic bird** that migrates from the Refuge to other states in the US, and other news about why the Arctic Refuge deserves the strongest possible protections.

## Arctic Hero



**Morris King Udall** was a distinguished member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1961 to 1991. As a pioneer for environmental preservation, Udall worked on many successful pieces of legislation. His efforts resulted in a doubling in size of the national park system and nearly tripling the size of the national wilderness system across the country. Udall was also a lead author of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which among many conservation accomplishments, doubled the size of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to protecting the land, Udall was an advocate for Alaska Native's rights, whose cultures were being threatened by eager developers. Mo Udall worked throughout his career as a member of U.S. Congress to ensure the integrity and safety of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and without his efforts there would be far less refuge to celebrate during this 50th anniversary year.

## Arctic Bird

The **Semipalmated Sandpiper** is small bird that breeds in the summer months in the Arctic Refuge. Retreating to areas around New York during its migration, the Semipalmated Sandpiper travels as far at the northeastern coast of South America in the winter months. They are able to make these transoceanic flights due to an abundance of stored fat built up during the summer.



## Arctic Action

This week, activists from across the country, including a number of Native and non-native Alaskans, congregated in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. These advocates met with their legislators and the administration to discuss why they care so much about protecting the Arctic Refuge. They also shared ways offices can do their part to help protect this incomparable American icon. For one, there is a **sign-on letter to President Obama** circulating in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate that urges the President to do all he can to protect the Arctic Refuge. You can also **cosponsor the Arctic Refuge wilderness bill, H.R. 39/S. 231**. Check out a vide of the polar bear puppet we had on Capitol Hill: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b73zUJWRZoE>



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