



# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ October 29, 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 U.S., and other news about why the Arctic Refuge deserves the strongest possible protections.



## Arctic Hero

**Bruce F. Vento** represented Minnesota's 4th congressional district from 1977 until his death in 2000. While in office, Mr. Vento worked tirelessly to protect America's public lands — helping to pass more than 300 bills that served this purpose. A champion of protecting Alaska's wild lands, Mr. Vento remarked, while introducing the coastal plain wilderness act for the 106th Congress, that "we must remain united and continue [Morris Udall's] legacy to fight for the permanent preservation of the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain. Preventing the exploitation of the coastal plain is one of many solutions that can be employed today to protect Alaska's natural beauty and to prevent another tragedy similar to the one that occurred in Prince William Sound."

## Arctic Bird

The **Semipalmated Plover** spends its winters anywhere from North Carolina to Patagonia. While summering in the Arctic Refuge, they build their nests on open beaches. Since their nests are so exposed, the Semipalmated Plover has developed a "broken wing" display which it uses to lure predators away from their young. They hunt by stirring the sand with their feet, causing coastal insects to move away and reveal themselves.



## Arctic Action

As sea-ice continues to recede in the Arctic, an already vulnerable ecosystem will come under increasing pressure from shipping, drilling and climate change. According to a new report by a joint US and Canadian research team, more ship traffic in the Arctic — including activity to extract resources like oil — could increase the rate of global warming by 17 to 78 percent. The primary factor in this increase is black carbon, also known as soot, which is produced by marine diesel engines. Iconic species such as the Polar Bear have already come under threat from climate change and the drastic reduction in habitat that comes with it. As sea-ice continues to recede, it will become easier for development to encroach on one of the last pristine environments left — the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For this reason, it is more important than ever to protect the Refuge — please show your support by **cosponsoring H.R. 39, the Arctic wilderness bill**.



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