



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ February 12, 2010 ~

Each week leading up to the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50th Anniversary** on December 6, 2010, we will be sending you an Arctic Truth newsletter highlighting an **Arctic Hero** – someone who has gone above and beyond to protect the natural treasures of the Arctic Refuge – 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.



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Arctic Hero

Robert Marshall is well remembered for his love of wilderness, and his contributions to its preservation. Reflecting on his connection to nature, Marshall once wrote, "To us the enjoyment of solitude, complete independence, and the beauty of undefiled panoramas is absolutely essential to happiness." Driven by his passion for the outdoors, Marshall quickly became a leader in wildlands protection. He was one of the first to recommend preservation of large tracts of pristine land in Alaska, including the region that would become the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and is considered the inspiration for the establishment of Alaska's Gates of the Arctic National Park as well as the Bob Marshall Area in Montana. A prolific writer, Marshall was also the author of numerous influential essays and two books, including the 1933 bestseller Arctic Village.

Marshall recognized the need for a national organization committed to the preservation of untrammeled land. In 1935, he became one of the principal founders of The Wilderness Society and continued to make significant financial contributions to the organization until his death in 1939.

Arctic Bird

Birds migrate from the Arctic Refuge to every state in the US. This week's bird is the **Bohemian Waxwing**, which travels down from the Arctic to Colorado and many other states. The name "Bohemian" refers to the wandering behavior common of large winter flocks. Bohemian Waxwings are often found perched in treetops, searching for berries and insects. You can identify them by their crest, prominent yellow tipped tail, and chatty nature.



Photo: Randen Pederson

Arctic Action

The oil and gas industry claims that pollution from oil and gas development is insignificant. In reality, however, the oil industry on the North Slope of Alaska produces more than twice the amount of nitrogen oxides than Washington, DC. Pollutants, including certain carcinogens and greenhouse gasses, are generated from construction and drilling activities, gas venting, diesel exhaust, and waste disposal. Despite the hazards of these pollutants, the oil industry benefits from exceptions to rules regulating air emissions and drilling muds. Protect the Arctic Refuge from the dangers of oil and gas development—please **cosponsor HR 39/S231**, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, which would designate the coastal plain of the Refuge as wilderness.



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