



# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ March 19, 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** – 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.



## Arctic Hero

**Dr. Ed Wayburn** passed away earlier this month after a lifetime of working to protect America's wilderness, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Dr. Wayburn was influential in writing and achieving passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. This act secured protection for over 100 million acres of land, effectively doubling the acreage of the National Park system and creating ten new national parks. Dr. Wayburn first became active in conservation after he joined the Sierra Club in 1939. He later went on to be president of the Sierra Club five times, and to hold the title of honorary president since 1998. Dr. Wayburn was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, in 1999 for his inspiring and unprecedented work on behalf of wild places like the Arctic Refuge.

## Arctic Bird

Birds migrate from the Arctic Refuge to every state in the US. The **Wandering Tattler** spends its summers in Alaska, and migrates to Hawaii, South America, and even as far as Australia during the rest of the year. A wading bird that primarily eats crustaceans, marine worms and insects, the Wandering Tattler is known for the constant bobbing movements it makes while foraging for meals. It prefers rugged, rocky coastlines or mountain streams, only stopping on sandy beaches during its long migrations.



## Arctic Action

With March Madness in full swing, it's interesting to note that many of the team's mascots are animals that reside in the Arctic Refuge. In fact, team mascots include two wolfpacks, five bears (one specifically the golden grizzlies), huskies, owls, and several raptors like hawks and golden eagles. Even one of the human mascots—the mountaineers—can be found in the Refuge from time to time.

What's really mad this March is that the Arctic Refuge isn't fully protected. With the Refuge under threat by oil development, climate change, and other human impacts, many of these animals may end up as mythical as another mascot animal, the bearcat. Help make sure that these species are protected by **cosponsoring H.R. 39, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act.**



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