

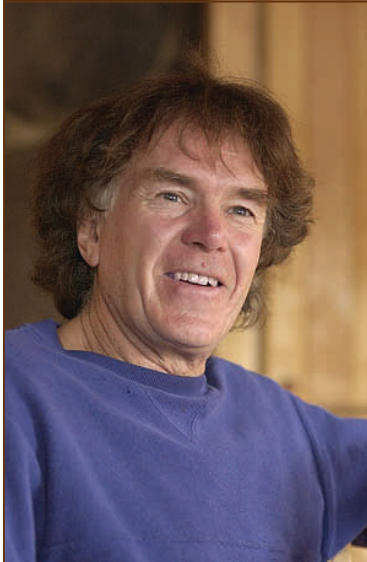


ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ April 16, 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.



Arctic Hero

Having spent 45 years travelling through the Arctic, often on record-setting dogsled expeditions, **Will Steger** is no stranger to the region. Throughout the years, Will has been an eyewitness to the detrimental effects of global warming on the Arctic, and as a consequence, has actively pursued means to educate people about preserving lands and pursuing solutions to Alaska's climate crisis. Will pioneered some of the earliest forms of online education in 1995 when he established a means to transmit his daily journals and digital photographs to students through the Internet. Will has founded several environmental education institutes, and also started the Will Steger Foundation in 2006 to foster environmental preservation through education and advocacy. Will has testified in numerous Congressional hearings on protecting the Arctic Refuge and other Polar environmental issues.

Arctic Bird

A small gray and white sparrow, the **Dark-eyed Junco** is one of the most abundant forest birds in North America. Juncos commonly breed in the southern part of the Arctic Refuge, and then migrate down to Indiana and many other states. You are likely to see Dark-eyed Juncos flitting about the forest floor or in flocks at your birdfeeder.



Arctic Action

After the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced last week that they're developing a new management plan for the Arctic Refuge, which could lead to a wilderness recommendation for the Coastal Plain and other areas of the Refuge, the Alaska delegation came out swinging. Senator Begich even went so far as to say "I'll work through my position on the Senate Budget Committee to cut any funding for this effort, and with the other members of Alaska's congressional delegation to short-circuit this unnecessary, money-wasting review." What Sen. Begich doesn't seem to understand is that the Arctic Refuge is going through a legally-mandated planning process along with every other national wildlife refuge in the country. In fact, the Arctic Refuge is long overdue for this review—updates are supposed to occur every 15 years, and the Refuge's plan is more than 20 years old. Please show the USFWS you support wilderness in the Arctic Refuge: **cosponsor H.R.39, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act.**



For more information contact: Lauren Hierl, Lauren@alaskawild.org