



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ April 8, 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.

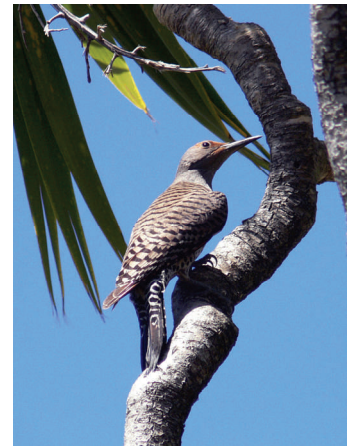


Arctic Hero

Polly Dyer, a lifelong advocate for Alaska's wildlands, celebrated her 90th birthday in February. Her tireless efforts contributed to the passage of the Wilderness Act, which has led to the protection of over 100 million acres of wilderness over the past four decades. Polly's 90th birthday celebration at the Mountaineers in Seattle in February included Congressman Inslee's staff reading a Congressional proclamation honoring her for her environmental work and a King County proclamation of Polly Dyer Day, among other official honors. Polly moved to Ketchikan, Alaska when her Dad was transferred when she was 19. Polly first learned about conservation from her future husband, John Dyer, who had a Sierra Club rock climbing pin on his hat when they met hiking. According to Polly, "He was a 'dyed-in-the-wool' conservationist." Polly discovered that the wonderful country she first saw after arriving in Alaska needed to be protected. Since then, Polly has been working very hard to protect the Alaska she first experienced 70 years ago.

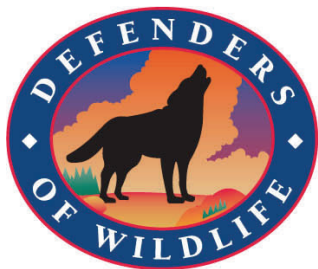
Arctic Bird

Northern Flickers travel from the Arctic Refuge to **Illinois** and numerous other states. Though their most common name is the Northern Flicker, this bird has a wide assortment of monikers ranging from Yellowhammer to Wick-up to Yarrup, and even Harry-wicket. Unsurprisingly perhaps, its numerous identities are a result of its predominance across North America. The Northern Flicker is also one of only a few woodpecker species that migrate. Look up, and you may see one in your own backyard!



Arctic Action

This week the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced the beginning of a new comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This plan will determine how the Refuge is managed for the next 15 years. The Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain has never had a complete wilderness review, so FWS can finally assess this vital habitat for its suitability as wilderness, and recommend to Secretary Salazar that this area be designated wilderness. Ultimately, Congress needs to pass legislation designating this area as wilderness. Show your support for what scientists already know: the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge deserves protection as wilderness. Please support **H.R. 39, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act.**



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