



# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ May 7, 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

Former Republican Representative **John B. Anderson** (IL-16), along with Representative Morris Udall, introduced the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which was signed into law in 1980. ANILCA, often considered one of the nation's most significant conservation victories, set aside over seventy-nine million acres of public lands in Alaska, a third of which was designated wilderness. ANILCA also doubled the size of the Arctic National Wildlife Range, which had been established by President Eisenhower in 1960, and ANILCA also renamed it the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. However, Section 1002 of ANILCA put the Refuge's Coastal Plain in limbo by mandating both a study of the area's biological and petroleum resources. Ultimately, they left the question of whether to develop this region or protect it as wilderness up to a future Congress to decide.

## Arctic Bird

**Merlins** visit the Arctic Refuge before journeying to Kentucky and many other states. This small falcon is an excellent hunter, relying on its speed and agility to hunt other birds. During medieval times, Merlins were popular in falconry, and are still occasionally trained by falconers. They are known to be quite fearless, attacking anything that moves. Merlins have even been spotted trying to catch cars and trains!



## Arctic Action

On Tuesday of this week, the US Fish & Wildlife Service held a hearing in D.C. seeking public comments on the Arctic Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) revision. More than 20 people spoke out in support of increased wilderness designation for Refuge lands, including the Coastal Plain. Only 4 oil industry proponents came out to speak in favor of opening these public lands to development. Many participants noted that the tragedy occurring in the Gulf of Mexico has made clear to them the incompatibility of oil development in our last remaining pristine public lands. Show your support for wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge today by **cosponsoring H.R. 39**, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act.

For more information contact: Myke Bybee, [Myke.Bybee@sierraclub.org](mailto:Myke.Bybee@sierraclub.org)