



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ June 11, 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**, 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



Art Wolfe's stunning photography has been a gift to nature lovers for the past 30 years. He produced the book, *On Thin Ice: The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, which is a compilation of many years worth of beautiful photographs of the Arctic Refuge. Throughout his career, Wolfe has been a source of inspiration for those trying to protect the wildlife, indigenous peoples, and landscapes he portrays. He has released more than sixty photo and instructional books, as well as numerous publications from his work across all seven continents. He is the recipient of the Alfred Eisenstaedt Magazine Photography Award, and he was named Outstanding Nature Photographer of the Year by the North American Nature Photography Association. He also serves on the advisory boards for the Wildlife Conservation Society, Nature's Best Foundation, and Bridges to Understanding.

Arctic Bird

The **Varied Thrush** breeds in the Arctic Refuge and migrates to Washington and other Western states. The Male is striking, with a vibrant orange breast, whereas the female has more subdued coloration. Their song is eerie and melancholic. Male Varied Thrushes are known to set up small territories around birdfeeders that they will vigorously defend, dominating many other bird species.



Arctic Action

On June 7, the public comment period closed for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). More than 75,000 people across the country submitted comments in support of Wilderness for the Arctic Refuge, and particularly for the Refuge's biological heart, the Coastal Plain. Congress must pass legislation to designate this area as Wilderness, but the CCP process can be a positive step towards designation. Meanwhile, despite the fact that the Refuge is legislatively closed to oil and gas development, Alaska politicians continue to push every avenue to insert oil and gas considerations into this process. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Arctic

Refuge, it's time to end this constant battle by designating the biologically unique Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as Wilderness. Please **cosponsor H.R. 39/S. 231** to help further this goal.



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