



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ June 18, 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.

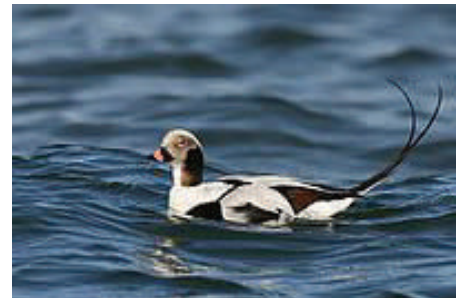
Arctic Hero



John B. Oakes, editor of the *New York Times* editorial page from 1961 to 1976, was the creator of the contemporary op-ed or "opposite the editorial" page. He steered the *Times* editorials toward activism, particularly concerning the environment and civil rights. He played a major role in the start of the modern environmental movement, and used his position to persuade politicians and opinion leaders to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He was awarded the George Polk Award, a prestigious journalism award, for adding to the editorial page "a brilliance, an intensity and a perceptiveness" that made it "the most vital and influential journalistic voice in America." Op-eds continue to be an important means for educating people about the Arctic Refuge, and voicing support for its unique wilderness.

Arctic Bird

The **Long-tailed Duck**, long known as the Oldsquaw, is a sea bird that breeds in the Arctic Refuge, and then travels to Michigan and other states. The long-tailed duck dives more than 200 feet down to forage, making it one of the deepest-diving ducks in the world, and also the duck species that spends the most time underwater. When foraging for food, Long-tailed Ducks spend far more time under the surface than on the water eating or resting.



Arctic Action

On April 20, the same day that BP's Deepwater Horizon rig exploded and sank, federal regulators sent BP's Alaska division a letter identifying safety problems with some of their facilities on the North Slope. In addition, the company was recently reprimanded by the federal government's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration due to concerns about the current state of the Trans-Alaska pipeline that the company operates. BP has been notoriously negligent in its maintenance of this pipeline - pervasive corrosion and other problems have led to a number of serious oil spills in Alaska in recent years. Rather than allowing a company with a dismal track record like BP to exploit the Arctic Refuge, we should be setting aside places too special to drill. Please support stronger protections for the Arctic Refuge by **cosponsoring H.R. 39/ S. 231**, the Arctic wilderness bill.



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