



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ July 2, 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.



Photo: Matt Valentine

Arctic Hero

Barry Lopez is an award-winning author and essayist. His most acclaimed piece entitled "Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape," serenely recounts the landscape, culture, history and wildlife found in the Arctic. In addition, Lopez contributed to "Arctic Refuge: A Circle of Testimony," a collection of essays from 32 conservationists who joined together to use their words to fight a Bush administration proposal to drill in the Arctic Refuge in 2001. This essay collection was presented to Congress to highlight the wilderness values of the Arctic Refuge, and portrayed it as a place too special to be sacrificed to the oil industry.

Arctic Bird

The **American Pipit** is a songbird that breeds throughout the northern region of North America, including the Arctic Refuge and northern **California**. During the winter, the Pipit can be found across the southern United States. This bird is distinguishable by a tail that bobs up and down as it moves across the ground searching for food.



David Menke, USFWS

Arctic Action

In the coming weeks, the Gulf Coast will host the arrival of millions of migratory birds, who will travel from all over the North American continent to its devastated marshes and wetlands. Many of these birds will come from their Arctic breeding grounds on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. In anticipation of what could be another ecological tragedy in the making, a federal conservation agency will begin paying Gulf region farmers and ranchers to flood their fields to provide potential habitat for the coming influx of birds. Ensuring that one of our nation's most critical bird habitats is kept out of the oil industry's hands is

another important step—please take action to keep the oil industry out of the Arctic Refuge for good by supporting legislation to **designate the Coastal Plain as wilderness**.



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