



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ August 27, 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.

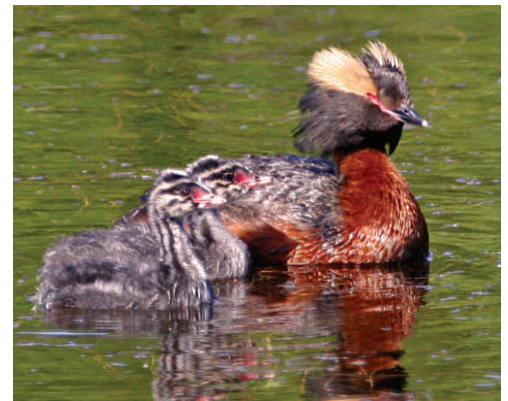


Arctic Hero

Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, signed several landmark environmental laws and created a number of important federal agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Council on Environmental Quality. The Nixon administration signed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) into law, along with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. And in Alaska, Nixon helped resolve land claims issues and stimulate economic progress by signing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971. These laws and agencies have all played critical roles in protecting our nation's lands, waters, and wildlife.

Arctic Bird

The **Horned Grebe**, also known as the devil-diver or water witch, summers in the Arctic Refuge and can then be found wintering along the east coast of the United States from Rhode Island to Louisiana. The bird is named for its horn-shaped feather patches which it can raise and lower at will. The young often ride on the adult's back, even during underwater dives to catch fish and crustaceans. To help its digestion of fish bones, the Horned Grebe often eats its own feathers in order to create a "stomach plug."



Arctic Action

This week in Anchorage, Director Michael Bromwich of the newly-created Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement met with a panel of experts to learn more about drilling in the Arctic. The meeting focused on offshore drilling, and panelists outlined the range of issues that would impede or even thwart efforts to clean up an oil spill off Alaska's northern coast. These problems include lack of infrastructure to respond to a spill, lack of technology to deal with a spill in icy waters, and a lack of basic scientific data about the region's ecosystems. Some of the proposed drilling sites are right off the coast of the Arctic Refuge, and a spill would degrade sensitive lagoons, barrier islands, and other areas of the Refuge's shoreline. Please help the pristine Arctic Refuge receive the stronger protections it deserves by **cosponsoring H.R. 39/S. 231**, which would designate the Refuge's Coastal Plain as wilderness.



THE
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— S O C I E T Y —

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