



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ September 24, 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.

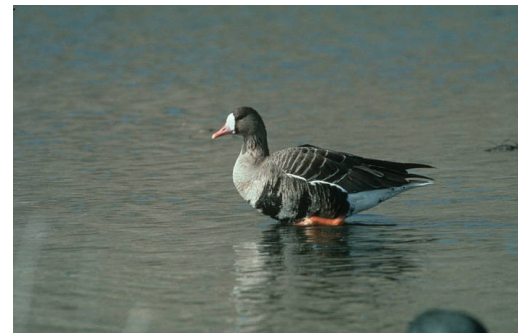


Arctic Hero

President Lyndon B. Johnson was an early advocate of the need to preserve America's wilderness. His leadership helped initiate the modern environmental movement. Working throughout his Presidency to enact legislation to protect wilderness areas, Johnson signed the historic Wilderness Act of 1964, which not only set the legal definition for "wilderness," but created the National Wilderness Preservation System. This ensured designated wilderness areas remain "for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness." The National Wilderness Preservation System has grown from 9.1 million to over 100 million acres, almost half of which is located in Alaska. Without President Johnson's foresight, much of Alaska's natural and unique environment would be at greater risk, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Arctic Bird

The **White-fronted Goose** is named for the distinctive white stripe right above its bill. As circumpolar breeders, they spend the summer months north of the Arctic Circle, including in the Arctic Refuge. In winter months, the White-Fronted Goose migrates to coastal regions, including wetlands and marshes in Texas and other areas. White-fronted Goose pairs stay together for years, even migrating together with their offspring. Parents and siblings may stay together throughout their lives.



Arctic Action

After a stunning loss in her primary last month, Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) faced a new threat this week — being stripped of her Ranking Member position on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (ENR). Murkowski ended up keeping her leadership role on the committee for now, but has stepped down from her position as vice chairman of the Senate Republican conference. After Murkowski declared her write-in candidacy last week, Republicans have continued to express support for Republican candidate and Tea Party-backed Joe Miller. However, while Murkowski remains in her leadership role on ENR, she can continue to threaten the Arctic Refuge. Please do your part to demonstrate support for protecting the Arctic Refuge by **cosponsoring H.R. 39/S. 231**, which would designate the Refuge's Coastal Plain as wilderness.



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