



# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ September 3, 2010 ~

Each week leading up to the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50<sup>th</sup> 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



**Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak** is a native Inupiaq from the village of Nuiqsut, Alaska. For years she has fought for the preservation of the health and culture of her people, as well as the environment they rely on. She has visited Washington, DC many times to lobby in favor of protecting the Arctic Refuge and other areas of America's Arctic. Rosemary graduated from the University of Washington Medex Northwest Physician Assistant Program. While working as a community health practitioner in Nuiqsut, Rosemary saw firsthand the devastating effects that oil development had on the land and health of her community. The Alpine Oil Field, a satellite field of Prudhoe Bay oil development, is only four miles from Nuiqsut and visible from the village. Rosemary is the former mayor of Nuiqsut, and currently serves on the board of the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, the regional tribal government for the North Slope, and is an executive council member of the Alaska Inter-tribal Council.

## Arctic Bird

The **Yellow-rumped Warbler** covers a vast territory, encompassing the Arctic Refuge in Alaska through several western states and Canada during the summer months, and the southeastern states including Tennessee, Mexico and the Caribbean during the winter months. During summer they are active birds—in fact they're the warbler you're mostly like to see darting out from a tree to acrobatically catch insects in midair!



## Arctic Action

Yesterday another rig exploded in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Luckily, no people were killed, but the explosion reminds us that, despite oil industry claims to the contrary, the BP Gulf disaster was not an isolated incident. These explosions are symptomatic of the industry's heavy investment in exploring new risky areas for development while giving minimal attention to safety and environmental concerns. These same misplaced priorities and dangerous conditions plague oil producers on the North Slope of Alaska, where spills and pipeline malfunctions are an all-too-common occurrence. Help protect the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from this dirty and dangerous industry by **cosponsoring H.R. 39/S. 231, which would designate the Refuge's Coastal Plain as wilderness.**



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