



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ January 14, 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** – someone who has gone above and beyond to protect the natural treasures of the Arctic Refuge – 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 F. Seiberling, was an eight-term Akron Congressman renowned for his dedication to writing laws aimed at protecting and expanding our nation's national parks and conservation areas. In his 16 years in Congress, Seiberling helped draft more than 60 parks-related bills. In 2001, President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal, calling him an "environmental hero" for crafting the Alaska Lands Act (ANILCA) of 1980 which doubled the size of the originally designated Arctic Refuge Wildlife Range and renamed it the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. ANILCA doubled the size of the U.S. national parks and wildlife refuges nationwide. It also tripled the area of federally designated wilderness.

Arctic Bird

Birds migrate from the Arctic Refuge to every state in the US. This week's bird is the **Fox Sparrow**, which breeds in the Refuge and then travels down to Arizona and many other states for the winter. Fox sparrows are one of the largest sparrows, and their appearance varies in different regions of the country. You can identify them at a bird feeder by their distinctive two-footed back-kicking to scratch at the ground litter to uncover food.



Photo: Carla Stanley, USFWS

Arctic Action

Despite claims by the oil industry that they can do "environmentally sensitive" drilling, in reality the North Slope of Alaska experiences **more than 450 oil spills per year**. In the past two months, 3 significant oil spills occurred in Prudhoe Bay, not far from the Arctic Refuge— one of which was among the largest spills ever recorded on the North Slope. And there was another spill in mid-December at the same exact spot as the infamous Exxon-Valdez oil spill of 1989.

If the Arctic Refuge was opened for oil and gas development, we could expect more of the same from this dirty industry, and the loss of the Refuge's wilderness forever. To prevent this fate for the pristine Refuge, please **cosponsor HR39/S231** the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, which would designate the coastal plain of the Refuge as wilderness.



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