



Audubon



FACT SHEET

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a place unlike any other in the world. The Alaskan refuge, often referred to as “America’s Serengeti,” is a remote sanctuary for diverse populations of migratory birds, fish, mammals, and marine life. The Refuge spans an area roughly the size of South Carolina and boasts snow-capped mountains, arctic tundra, foothills, wetlands, boreal forest, and fragile coastal plains. America’s Arctic Refuge was set aside as a safe haven for wildlife in 1960, and it has remained wild in its more than 50 years as a Refuge.

AMERICA'S LAST GREAT WILDERNESS

The Arctic Refuge is often mischaracterized as a blank, frozen void of uninhabited tundra. Although winter frequently coats the Arctic with snow and freezes the ground, it gives way to lush, vibrant growth in warmer months. In fact, the Refuge’s unparalleled diversity makes it the most biologically productive habitat in the North.

Landscape

The majestic Brooks Range rises 9,000 feet, providing sharp contrast to the flat, wetlands-rich coastal plains at its feet. Below the continental divide, rivers wind through spruce-dotted valleys. Shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses flourish on much of the refuge’s landscape.

Wildlife

The Arctic Refuge is home to over 200 migratory and resident bird species, 45 mammals, and 42 types of fish. Among the incredibly diverse populations of wildlife are free-roaming caribou, wolves, Arctic foxes, musk-oxen, wolverines, golden eagles, tundra swans, polar bears, and grizzly bears.

THE UDALL-EISENHOWER ARCTIC WILDERNESS ACT - HR 139

This bill was recently re-introduced by Congressman Ed Markey (D-MA) to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge — the heart of wildlife activity — by designating it as a National Wilderness area.

Although much of the land in the Arctic Refuge is protected as

ARCTIC BIRDS IN YOUR STATE

Alabama - Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Alaska - Redpoll
 Arizona - Fox Sparrow
 Arkansas - Mallard
 California - Snow Goose
 Colorado - Bohemian Waxwing
 Connecticut - Greater Scaup
 Delaware - Black-bellied Plover
 Florida - Peregrine Falcon
 Georgia - Gray-checked Thrush
 Hawaii - Wandering Tattler
 Idaho - Short-eared Owl
 Illinois - Northern Flicker
 Indiana - Dark-eyed Junco
 Iowa - Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Kansas - Smith’s Longspur
 Kentucky - Merlin
 Louisiana - Long-billed Dowitcher
 Maine - Least Sandpiper
 Maryland - Tundra Swan
 Massachusetts - Golden Plover
 Michigan - Long-tail Duck
 Minnesota - Snowy Owl
 Mississippi - Northern Waterthrush
 Missouri - American Pipit
 Montana - Golden Eagle
 Nebraska - Wilson’s Warbler
 Nevada - Green-winged Teal
 New Hampshire - Dunlin
 New Jersey - Canvasback
 New Mexico - Sandhill Crane
 New York - Semipalmated Sandpiper
 North Carolina - Semipalmated Plover
 North Dakota - Rough-legged Hawk
 Ohio - American Tree Sparrow
 Oklahoma - Savannah Sparrow
 Oregon - Brant
 Pennsylvania - Lapland Longspur
 Rhode Island - Horned Grebe
 South Carolina - Northern Shrike
 South Dakota - Northern Shrike
 Tennessee - Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Texas - White-fronted Goose
 Utah - White-crowned Sparrow
 Vermont - Snow Bunting
 Virginia - Lesser Scaup
 Washington - Varied Thrush
 West Virginia - Rusty Blackbird
 Wisconsin - Wilson’s Snipe
 Wyoming - Townsend’s Solitaire

Saving Our Great Natural Heritage

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

1150 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036
 (202) 861-2242 | audubonaction@audubon.org | www.audubon.org

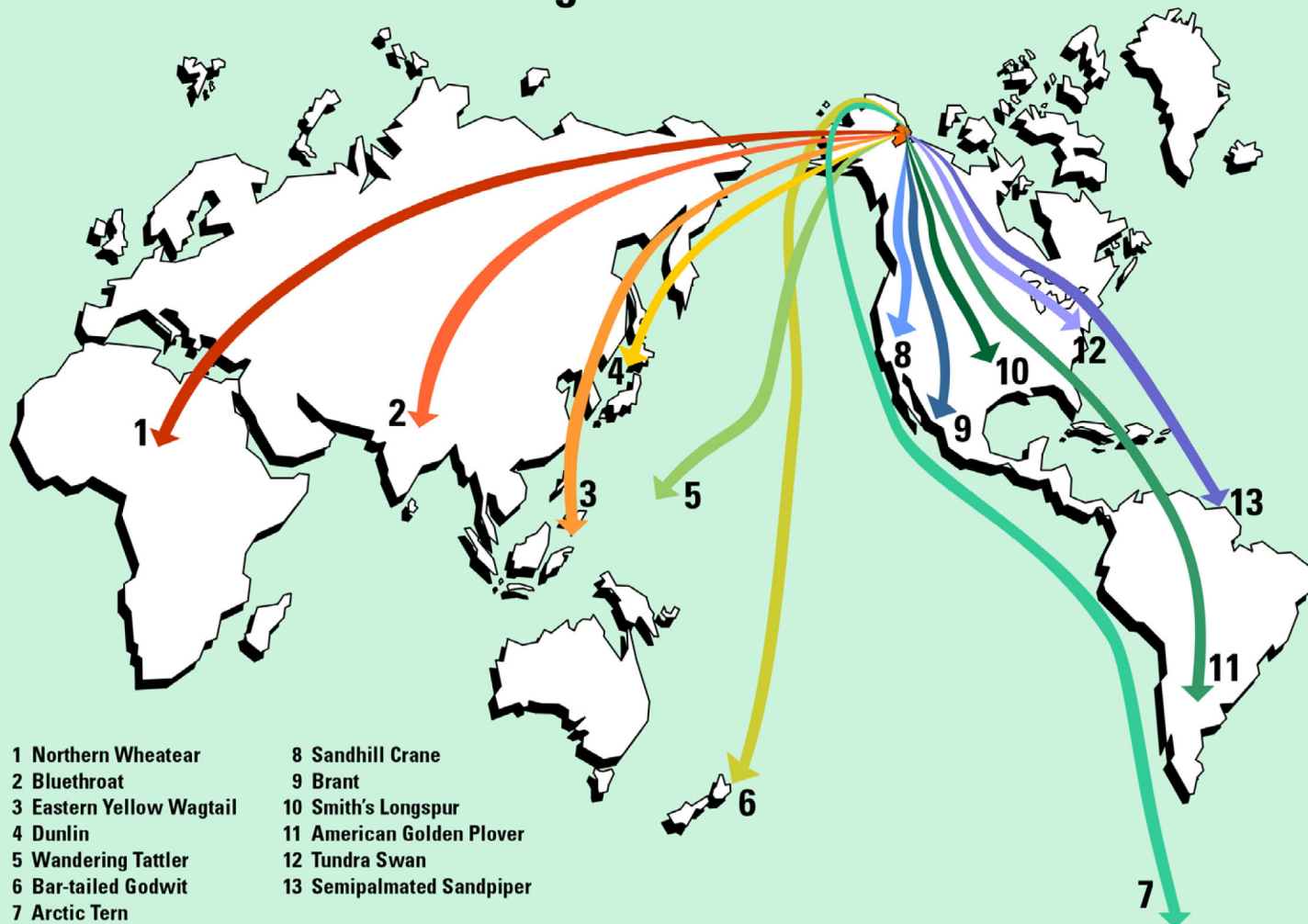
Wilderness, the 1.5-million-acre Coastal Plain is not. To ensure the future protection of this fragile area, HR 139 seeks “to preserve the Arctic plain . . . as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.”

Wilderness designation provides strong protection from oil development and other harmful activities. Scientists, advocates, and the majority of Congress agree that the damage drilling would do to the Arctic’s coastal plain is far too great a cost for such a short-sighted energy plan. **Help protect this unparalleled wilderness by cosponsoring HR 139.**

IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE

- Construction and operation of a major industrial complex (roads, pipelines, airports, sewage treatment sites, pump stations and worker housing, for instance) for oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge’s coastal plain would degrade and destroy important bird habitats such as lowland tundra, freshwater wetlands, and coastal marshes.
- Oil fields attract predators that prey on birds, and increased predation on nesting waterfowl is a significant impact of oil development at Prudhoe Bay and other central Arctic oil fields.
- Big or small, oil spills kill wildlife. Every year, hundreds of spills occur in the North Slope oil fields, putting thousands of vulnerable birds at risk. An oil spill on the Arctic’s coastal plain would be devastating to the highly sensitive coastal lagoons and shore

Birds connect Arctic Refuge with the world



January 2013