

This summer Manomet senior Scientist Stephen Brown will join Arctic National Wildlife Refuge bird biologist Steve Kendall on an exploratory survey of the Arctic coastal plain. Their goal is to witness the extent to which adult and young-of-the-year shorebirds such as Semipalmated Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope use coastal waters, mudflats and river deltas as staging areas prior to southward migration. Over six weeks, the team aims to survey 100 miles of coastline and traverse several major rivers, navigating around icebergs and polar bears in a rigid-hull inflatable outboard. The team is not sure to expect, as they are the first team to attempt such a study.

ARCTIC REFUGE TIMELINE

(Updated 3/06) **Sources:** National Audubon, Alaska Coalition

- 2006** On March 16, the Senate narrowly passed (51-49) an FY07 budget resolution that includes assumptions of revenue from drilling in the Arctic Refuge. The measure now moves to the House, where that body is scheduled to take up its own FY07 budget resolution the week of March 26. Call your representative!

- 2005** In a desperate backdoor tactic Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) added controversial Arctic drilling legislation to a must-pass Senate Defense Appropriations bill, after efforts to attach drilling to the budget reconciliation bill failed in the House. Pressure to filibuster jammed Senate voice mail boxes and email; on December 21 the Senate voted to remove Arctic drilling language from the Defense Appropriations bill by a vote of 56-44. The vote on whether to shut down the filibuster to protect the Arctic marked the end of 2005's arduous battle to protect the Refuge from drilling. The House and Senate will again attempt to add Refuge drilling to another bill in 2006. The integrity of the Arctic Refuge remains seriously threatened under the current administration and Congress.

- 2004** On March 25, Pro-drillers Fail Again - U.S. House of Representatives passed its budget resolution for FY'05 with no mention of oil and gas revenues from the Arctic Refuge.

- 2003** U.S. House of Representatives includes a provision to its budget that would ease the path for drilling in the Arctic Refuge. The Senate - by a mere two votes - stops the bill from moving forward days before Congress adjourns for the year.

- 2002** U.S. Senate votes to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling and keep the 2001 House-passed provision out of the final energy bill.

- 2001** U.S. House of Representatives passes legislation to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, as part of the House's overall energy bill. Moves to Senate for action.

- 2000** Oil companies lobby intensively for drilling rights in ANWR. President George W. Bush makes drilling there the centerpiece of his energy policy. The Senate wilderness bill S.867 garners 28 co-sponsors, but again, was not debated in Congress.

- 1999** The Wilderness bill received a record 165 cosponsors but had not been heard in committee.

- 1981 – 1998** Bill to designate the coastal plain as wilderness is introduced annually but is never brought to a vote. In 1998 it receives a record 151 cosponsors but is not heard in committee.

- 1995** Rider permitting oil development on the coastal plain is attached onto an appropriations bill. President Clinton vetoes the bill.

- 1991** Bill to open the coastal plain to oil development is narrowly defeated on the Senate floor.

- 1989** On March 23rd the tanker *Exxon Valdez* runs aground in Prince William Sound spilling 11 million gallons of oil and fouling 1000 miles of Alaskan coastline. Drilling in ANWR is a temporary casualty of the spill.
- 1987** Oil companies lobby intensively for drilling rights in ANWR. President George H.W. Bush makes drilling there the centerpiece of his energy policy. The US Fish & Wildlife Service issues a report supporting oil exploration on the coastal plain. Oil development in the refuge appears inevitable.
- 1980** President Jimmy Carter passes the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, doubling the area to over 19 million acres and redesignating it National Wildlife Refuge. Of that, 8.9 million acres, mostly mountains, is designated wilderness. Oil and gas development on the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain is prohibited, but Section 1002 opens the possibility for a future act of Congress to permit it, calling for an assessment of both its biological significance and fossil fuel potential.
- 1977** First oil flows down the 800-mile Trans-Alaska pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to the Port of Valdez.
- 1968** Oil is discovered at Prudhoe Bay.
- 1960** President Eisenhower designates 8.9 million acres as the Arctic National Wildlife Range.
- 1959** Alaska statehood.