## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The National Audubon Society is sponsoring a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Part of this event is to help support the opportunity to permanently protect the biological heart if this diverse and unique habitat, the Coastal plain, for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Arctic Refuge provides habitat for more than 180 species of birds for nesting, breeding, staging, and molting. Millions of birds from six continents and all 50 states gather in the Arctic Refuge each year. The Arctic Refuge is also home to other iconic species such as the polar bear, muskox, arctic fox, beluga whale and caribou. Many species of birds travel from the Arctic Refuge to or through Lorain County.

Only Congress has the authority to open up this majestic place to oil and gas development or afford it the permanent protections it deserves. Won't you please consider contacting your Members of Congress and encourage them to show their support for the Arctic Refuge by Cosponsoring the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act (H.R. 39 in the House and S. 231 in the Senate). You can also encourage our President to grant this area the strongest administrative protection possible. To obtain further information contact www.audubonalaska.org.

Gary E. Hawke