



Kenneth J. Bird

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Ken Bird came to Alaska as a Shell field intern in 1961. A year later, he suffered paraplegia in a North Slope rockfall. He spent 5 years completing graduate degrees and 45 years exploring Alaska for both the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the oil industry. Ken provided scientific leadership in highly visible and politically volatile USGS projects, including resource assessments of ANWR¹, NPR-A², non-federal lands, and the global Arctic. His encyclopedic knowledge is reflected in hundreds of publications spanning resource assessment, stratigraphy, paleontology, petroleum systems, hydrates, petrophysics, overpressure, and structural geology. Ken frequently presented congressional testimony, high-level federal briefings, industry and public workshops, and media interviews. A generous and patient mentor, Ken guided countless geoscientists through careers in Alaska geology.

¹Arctic National Wildlife Range, expanded and renamed Arctic National Wildlife Reserve in 1980

²Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4, renamed National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in 1976

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