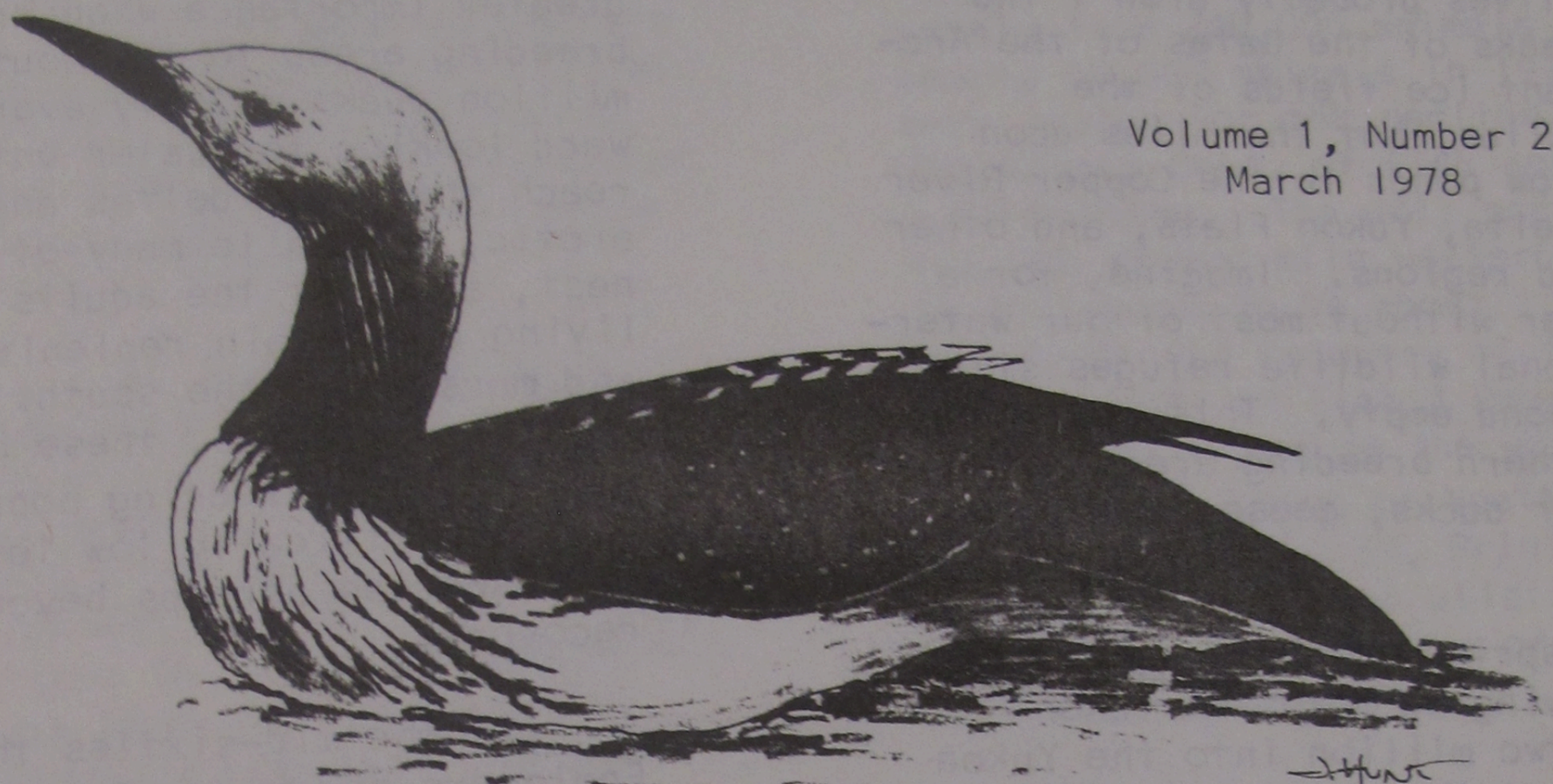


Hi - Hope All is well with you.  
I thought you might like a copy of the Newsletter.  
The Bill is moving along - BUT there's still a long way to go!  
- K. A. New + News

# The Last Wild Places

A newsletter dedicated to the preservation of Alaskan wildlands...  
and the living things dependent upon them.



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## Details from D.C.

The House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands has finished mark-up of H.R. 39, with full Interior Committee mark-up expected to begin in early March. Despite repeated attempts by Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D-WA) to weaken H.R. 39, the bill was only slightly modified in the mark-up process. A summary of mark-up follows:

1. Drop in Acreage. H.R. 39 originally proposed 115 million acres of new parks, refuges, etc. This was modified to 102 million acres in Committee Print #2 of H.R. 39, and to 97.5 in Committee Print #3. The Coalition proposal for a 13.6 Gates of the Arctic National Park was dropped to the 8.1 proposed by the Administration. Karupa Lake, part of the proposal, was given to the Arctic Slope Regional Native Corporation. In addition, some park proposals have been changed to preserves, a less protected category. Fortunately, critical lands in the Lake Clark and Katmai National Parks were added.

2. Weakening of the Mineral Process. The original H.R. 39 withdrew all proposed areas from mineral entry, with boundaries drawn to exclude most known mineral deposits. Committee Print #3 of H.R. 39 allows a "mineral process" whereby 77% of Alaska's lands would be open to mineral exploration and development. The process applies to non-wilderness portions of preserves and wildlife refuges. Before any exploration can take place, the Secretary of the Interior must find: (1) that there is a need to extract the mineral (2) that there would be no serious adverse environmental impact (3) that the need cannot be met by other sources. Originally this would have included foreign sources, but this was restricted to just U.S. sources in Committee Print #3. The process must be strengthened in full Committee.

3. Attack on Wilderness Proposals Overcome. Rep. Lloyd Meeds attempted to cut wilderness acreage to 33 million acres. In an attempt to compromise, Udall and Seiberling