



# Field Notes

February 2022



Greetings Friends,

We are excited to take on a full schedule of events in 2022, including the return of Camp Habitat! Check out our program and events schedule below!

We also have some new items in the gift shop! If you are at the Refuge, be sure to stop by the Farmhouse and check them out.

See you on the Refuge!

*Grace & Melanie*

Friends of Creamer's Field Staff

## 2022 Program & Event Schedule

Please call (907)978-8457 or visit [www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org) for current information. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @friendsofcreamersfield for specialty walk announcements, program updates, and other announcements!

Date	Program	Time
April 30	Spring Migration Celebration	12:00 - 4:00 PM
June 26	Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk	12:00 - 4:00 PM
July 17	Creamer's Dairy Day	12:00 - 4:00 PM
August 19 - 21	Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival	All Weekend
October 22	Creepy Critters	12:00 - 3:00 PM
November 19	Thanksgiving for the Birds	12:00 - 3:00 PM
December 3	Luminary Trail & Holiday Ornament Making	4:00 - 8:00 PM

## Possible Refuge Expansion: College Road Parcel

The University of Alaska intends to dispose of a parcel of land (approx. 118 acres) adjacent to Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, between College Road and Farmers Loop Road.

The Conservation Fund has expressed interest in purchasing the parcel, for donation to the State of Alaska for the future expansion of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. The parcel is generally considered to be wetlands with no constructed access and is zoned RA-5 (rural and agriculture district).

The University intends to sell the College Road Parcel at or above fair market value.

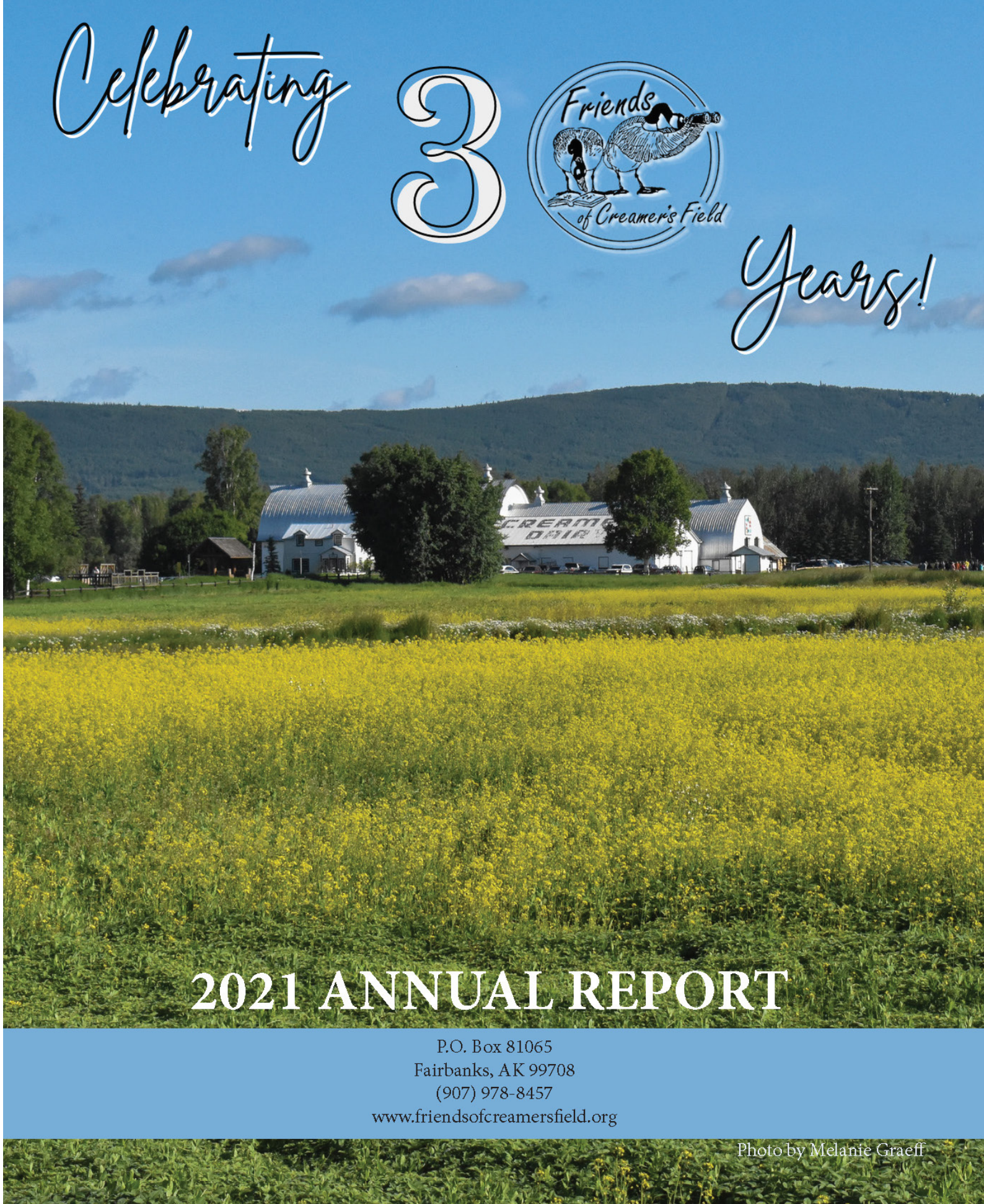
The University of Alaska is seeking public comment on the disposal plan. If you wish to support this plan, please submit your written comments by fax at (907)786-7733 or by email at [ua-land@alaska.edu](mailto:ua-land@alaska.edu). Comments must be received no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 21, 2022.

Click on the button below to read the full public notice.



## 2021 Annual Report

Read our 2021 Annual Report at the link below.



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

P.O. Box 81065  
Fairbanks, AK 99708  
(907) 978-8457  
[www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org)

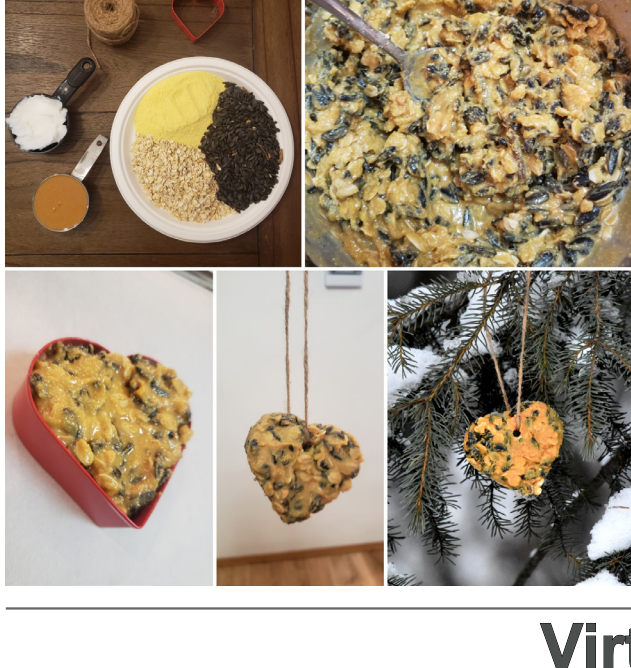
Photo by Melanie Graeff

## Show Your Love for Your Winter Birds

My heart is yours! And it's stuffed with suet!

Happy Valentine's Day from the Friends of Creamer's Field!

Want to show your love for your winter birds? Follow our tutorial for this fun Heart Suet Feeder!



All the materials needed are a heart-shaped cookie cutter, lard or vegetable shortening, peanut butter, bird seed, oats, corn meal, and string.

For the size of our cookie cutter, we used 1/2 cup of each ingredient. Yields 6 bird feeders.

1. Melt 1/2 c. peanut butter and 1/2 c. lard.
2. Mix in 1/2 c. birdseed, 1/2 c. oats, and 1/2 c. cornmeal. Let mixture cool.
3. Once the mixture has cooled down, mold it into the cookie cutter (with parchment paper underneath).
4. Poke hole for string.
5. Let the suet fully harden.
6. Hang up and let the birds enjoy themselves!

## Virtual Programs

Click on the images below to view our virtual events.



Winter Birds at Creamer's Field



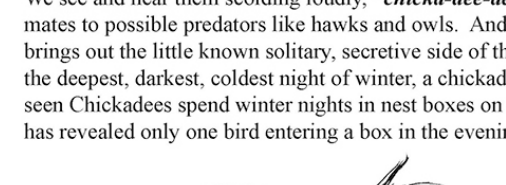
Owls of Interior Alaska



Wild Dogs of the North

## Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

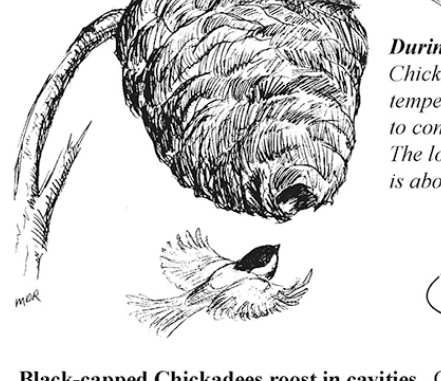


### Field Sketches: Chickadees choose their Roosts

Mark D. Ross

**Bold and boisterous, that's our most familiar feeder bird, the Black-capped Chickadee.**

We see and hear them scolding loudly, "chicku-dee-dee-dee"; complaining about people too close to their feeder or alerting flock-mates to possible predators like hawks and owls. And they always seem to be in flocks too, especially in winter. But wintertime also brings out the little known solitary, secretive side of the Black-capped Chickadee: During winter chickadees roost alone. Even during the deepest, darkest, coldest night of winter, a chickadee seeks out no more warmth than the puff of its own feathers. For years I've seen Chickadees spend winter nights in nest boxes on the Farmhouse at Creamer's Field. More than 70 days of winter observation has revealed only one bird entering a box in the evening (right at dusk) and one bird exiting a box in the morning (right at dawn).



During nightly roosting, Chickadees drop their body temperature 20 degrees Fahrenheit to conserve energy. The longest nightly roost, Dec 21, is about 18 hours.



Black-capped Chickadee Length: 5 inches, bill tip to tail tip

Puffed for winter warming

Hear the calls and Songs of Chickadees at Creamer's Field internet Search: KUAC Mark Ross



Celebrate

— Chickadee Festivity —

See & Hear Chickadees at Creamer's field

Visit the farmhouse, See & Hear chickadees

Make Roost boxes: Get plans and Kits

Learn more about local winter wildlife.

Information: 459-7301



A simple winter roost box is one with the same dimensions as a summer nest box for swallows or chickadees. Place it at least 10' high on or near trees.

Get Roost Box plans or Kit, at Creamer's Field, 459-7301.



## Fairbanks Trail Challenge

Enjoy local trails while participating in the Fairbanks Trails Challenge. The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks Department has posted 16 signs around Fairbanks. One of the signs is posted somewhere on your favorite local Refuge! Be sure to tag Friends of Creamer's Field in your photos and use the hashtag #FNSBTrails.

## Thank you FDMA & ASPA!

A big thank you goes out to the Fairbanks Dog Mushers Association and the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association for grooming the winter trails around the Refuge.

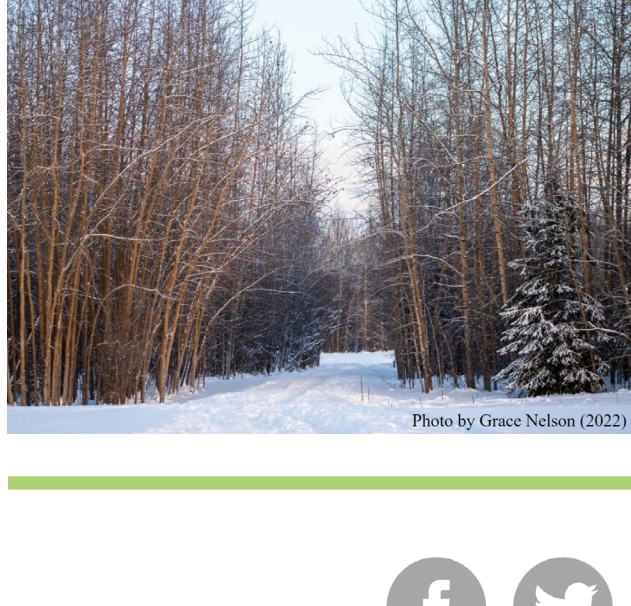


Photo by Grace Nelson (2022)

## Thank you for being a Friend!

Your donations allow us to remain an active and relevant organization during these tough times. Please remember us in your annual giving so we may continue our work as stewards of the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.



### Our Contact Information

Friends of Creamer's Field  
P.O. Box 81065  
Fairbanks, AK 99708  
(907) 978-8457  
[director@friendsofcreamersfield.org](mailto:director@friendsofcreamersfield.org)  
[www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org)

### Mission Statement

"Inspiring environmental stewardship and lifelong learning through experience, awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural and historic resources of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."

