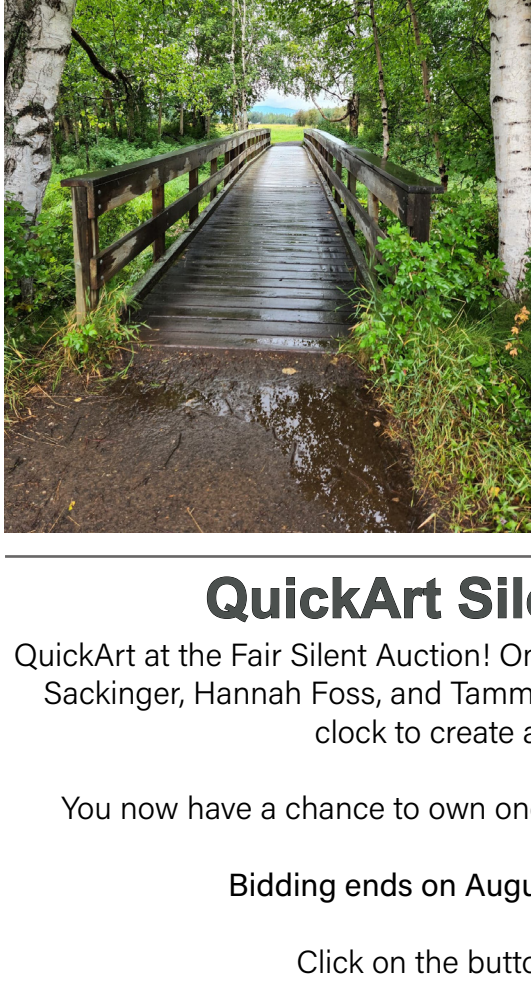


# Field Notes

August 2022



Greetings Friends!

It's that time of year to get crazy about cranes! Join us for the 25th annual Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival on August 19-21 to bid the cranes (and other migratory birds) farewell for the winter. This family-friendly event will include nature walks, crafts, lectures, music, and so much more.

We are also holding a joint fundraiser silent auction with our neighbors, the Tanana Valley State Fair Association. Artists Shayla Sackinger, Tammy Holland, and Hannah Foss raced against the clock to create a masterpiece in only one hour! You now have the opportunity to own one of these beautiful works of art. More information and the link to bid are listed below.

See you on the Refuge,

**Grace & Melanie**  
Friends of Creamer's Field Staff

Photo: Bridge crossing Jussilla Creek on a Rainy Day. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

## QuickArt Silent Auction

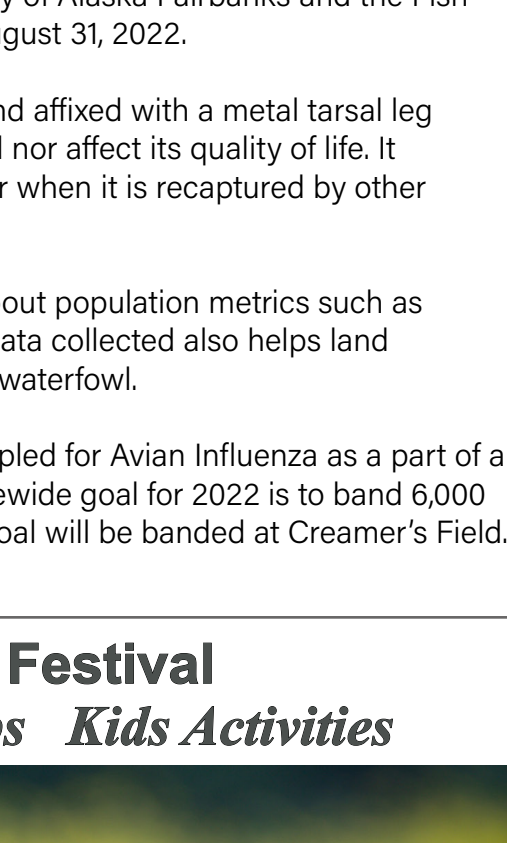
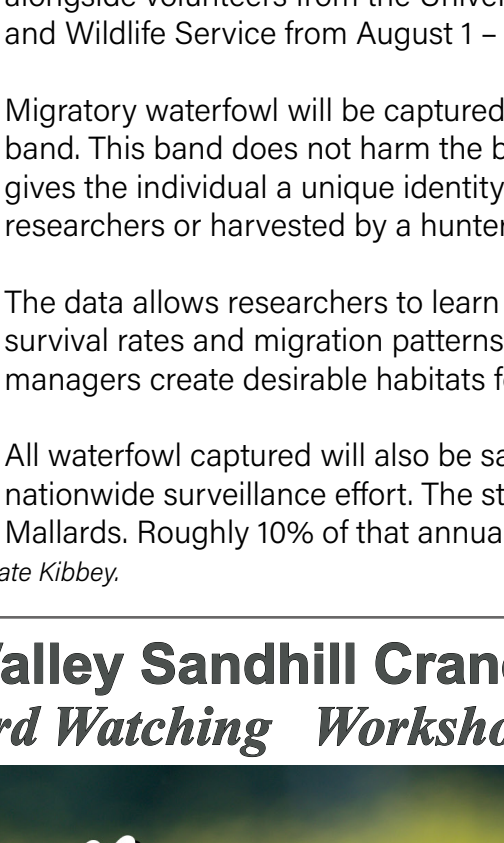
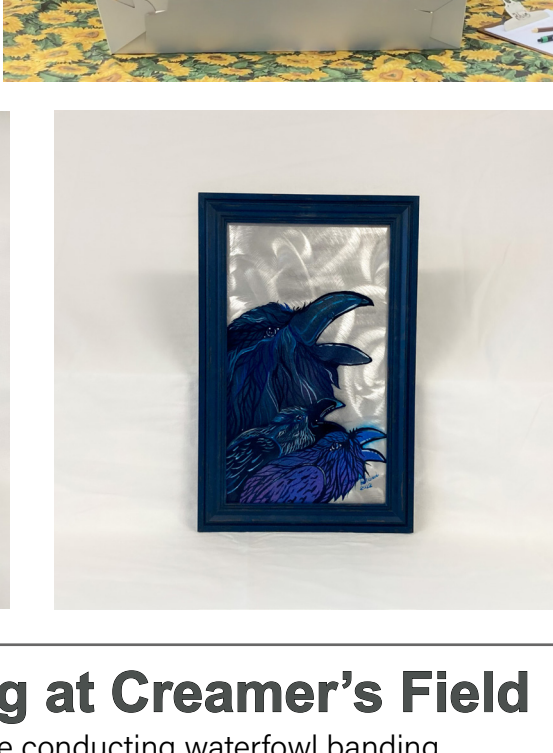
QuickArt at the Fair Silent Auction! On July 30, 2022, three artists - Shayla Sackinger, Hannah Foss, and Tammy Holland; each raced against the clock to create a masterpiece.

You now have a chance to own one of these amazing pieces of art!

Bidding ends on August 19th, at 11:59 pm!

Click on the button below to bid.

Thank you for your support!



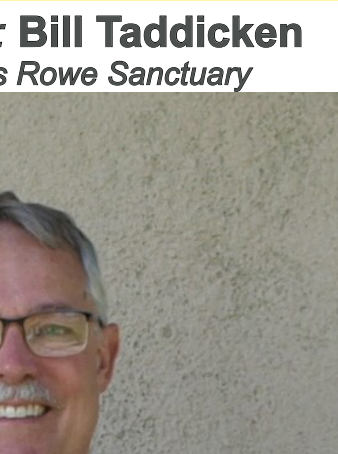
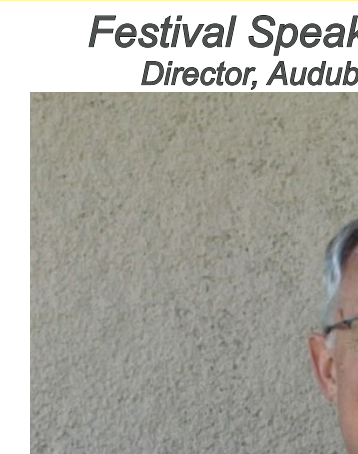
## Waterfowl Banding at Creamer's Field

ADFG staff at Creamer's Field will be conducting waterfowl banding alongside volunteers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Fish and Wildlife Service from August 1 – August 31, 2022.

Migratory waterfowl will be captured and affixed with a metal tarsal leg band. This band does not harm the bird nor affect its quality of life. It gives the individual a unique identity for when it is recaptured by other researchers or harvested by a hunter.

The data allows researchers to learn about population metrics such as survival rates and migration patterns. Data collected also helps land managers create desirable habitats for waterfowl.

All waterfowl captured will also be sampled for Avian Influenza as a part of a nationwide surveillance effort. The statewide goal for 2022 is to band 6,000 Mallards. Roughly 10% of that annual goal will be banded at Creamer's Field.



**Festival Photographer: Thomas Payer**  
Owner, Alaska Camera

**Festival Speaker: Bill Taddicken**  
Director, Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary



## Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. Please visit [www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org) for updates.

## 2022 Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival Schedule

All activities are located at Creamer's Field and Farmhouse unless noted with ⚡ All events are free unless otherwise noted. Donations are gratefully accepted.

### Wednesday August 17

**5-7:30 PM Volunteer Orientation** Brush up on the basics of Sandhill Crane ecology over pizza and sign up for festival volunteer shifts.

### Friday August 19

**7 PM Nature Walk** Join volunteer naturalists for an evening exploration of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

### Saturday, August 20

**9-11 AM Songbird Banding with ASI** A firsthand look at research on the refuge. See wild birds up close. You may even release a newly banded bird! Weather dependent. (907) 978-8457

**9-10 AM Waterfowl Banding** Learn about waterfowl banding from Alaska Department of Fish & Game staff. Weather dependent. (907) 978-8457

**10 AM Nature Walk** with local naturalists and featured speaker, Bill Taddicken

**11 AM Kid's Crane Walk** A walk for kids of all ages with Bill O'Malley.

### 11 AM-2 PM

**Coffee & Birds** Bird Friendly Coffee Tasting with ASI—Learn how your consumer choices can help create more diverse and sustainable ecosystems for migratory birds. Free coffee samples, prizes, and activities for kids.

**Book Fair** with local authors. Fiction, wildlife, poetry, & more.

**Waltzing with Cranes** Live music by Susan Grace & Karen Toland.

**12 PM Calling All Cranes!** A crane calling contest for all ages. Costumes encouraged.

**2 PM Birding by Ear** Join Beth Grassi for tips and pointers on finding and identifying birds by sound. There will be a short walk to hone your skills.

**3 PM Birds of Prey LIVE!** Local falconsors share their knowledge of hawks and falcons.

**7 PM Keynote Address** ⚡ Bill Taddicken, Director of Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary presents the Keynote address in the Taiga Center of the Wedgewood Resort. Donation \$5. Limited seating. Visit [www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org) for more info.

### Sunday August 21

**8 AM-12 PM Fall Birding Hot Spots** Carpool to Fairbanks' best birding spots with Jeff Walters. Meet at the Creamer's Farmhouse parking lot at 8am.

**9-11 AM Songbird Banding with ASI** A firsthand look at research on the refuge. See wild birds up close. You may even release a newly banded bird! Weather dependent. (907) 888-2121

**9-10 AM Waterfowl Banding** Learn about waterfowl banding from Alaska Department of Fish & Game staff. Weather dependent. (907) 978-8457

**9 AM - 4 PM Crane Painting** Paint a wooden crane with Ducks Unlimited's Tom Robinson. While supplies last.

**11 AM History Tour** Join the Creamer's Family for a walk around the historic dairy farm.

**12 PM Hopper Hunt** An all ages walk exploring what cranes eat with Melissa Sikes!

**12 PM Haiku Poetry Workshop** A writing workshop with award-winning Alaskan poet Linda Schandelmeyer

**1 PM Alaska's Cavity Nesting Birds** with Tom Robinson from Ducks Unlimited

**2 PM Cranes of the World** Join Susan Grace for stories of cranes, connections, and cultures.

**3 PM Capture a Crane... on paper** with Mark Ross. Bring your own art supplies.

### Ongoing Events

**Crane-Themed Crafts** Stop by the craft table to complete a crane-themed craft to take home.

**Crane Poetry Walk** Enjoy poems by local writers displayed along the Farm Road Trail. Poems can be submitted any time at the Farmhouse. Refuge trails are always open.

**Silent Auction** Support Friends of Creamer's Field by participating in the Silent Auction in the Farmhouse Visitor's Center. Questions? Call (907) 978-8457.

**Posters Through the Years** Step back in time and see 25 years of Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival posters!

**Crane Watch, 11 AM-5 PM daily** Join naturalists from Arctic Audubon Society at the viewing platforms at Creamer's Field.

**Crane Bingo** Pick up a bingo card at the Creamer's Farmhouse and play throughout the festival.

**Give Wild Birds a Chance** Please use common sense while you enjoy watching birds. Avoid activity that causes them stress, as evidenced by birds moving away or taking flight.

**Please leash all dogs.**



## Interested in Volunteering?

We are looking for volunteers to help with the 2022 Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival!

We have volunteer slots from Wednesday, August 17 through Sunday, August 21. Contact Grace Nelson at [director@friendsofcreamersfield.org](mailto:director@friendsofcreamersfield.org) or call/text (907) 978-8457 for more information.

## Field Sketch

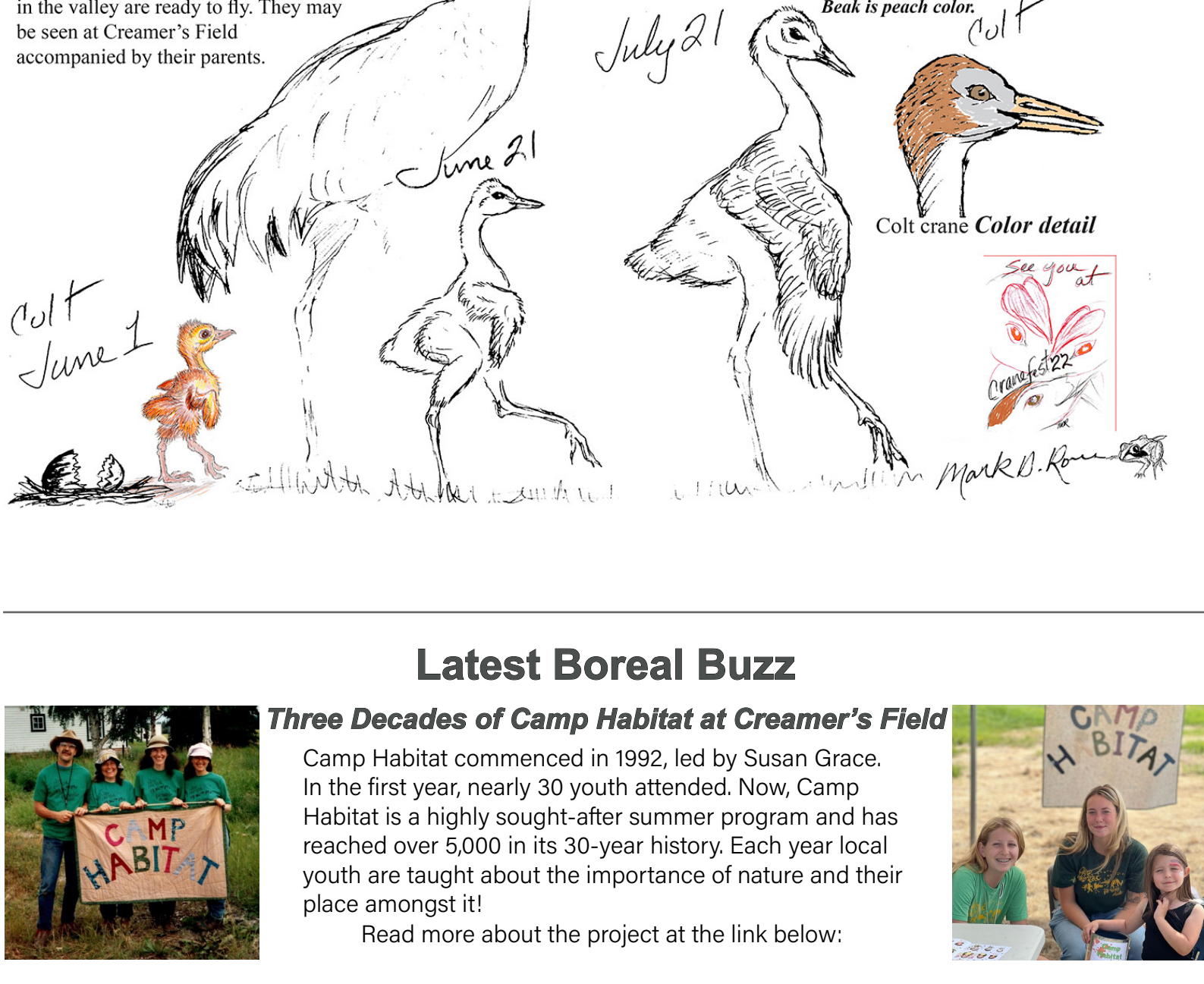
Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

**Field Sketches:** Mark D. Ross

### Watch for Crane "Colts"

**Why the term "colt" for juvenile cranes?**

Like an equine colt, the young crane needs long legs to keep pace with parents foraging in the fields. Their legs grow faster than the other long parts such as wings, neck and bill. The size difference between parents and young closes quickly. Over the course of three months, colts grow to the stature of their parents. By August 10th, some colts in the valley are ready to fly. They may be seen at Creamer's Field accompanied by their parents.



## Latest Boreal Buzz



### Three Decades of Camp Habitat at Creamer's Field

Camp Habitat commenced in 1992, led by Susan Grace. In the first year, nearly 30 youth attended. Now, Camp Habitat is a highly sought-after summer program and has reached over 5,000 in its 30-year history. Each year local youth are taught about the importance of nature and their place amongst it!

Read more about the project at the link below:



## \$30 for 30 Years!

Celebrate 30 years of Camp Habitat

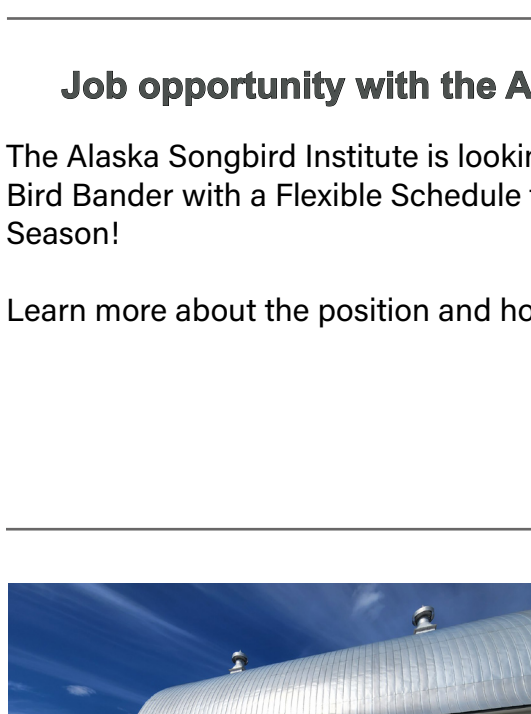
by donating \$30 (or more).

Every summer since 1990, local children have enjoyed guided explorations of the forests, fields, ponds, and other wetlands on the refuge. Campers learn about the natural history of Interior Alaska through engaging activities, games, hikes, projects, and guest speakers. They explore the natural world through themes such as plants, animals, birds, fish, habitats, and people and the environment.

Help meet our goal of raising \$3,000 in 30 days!

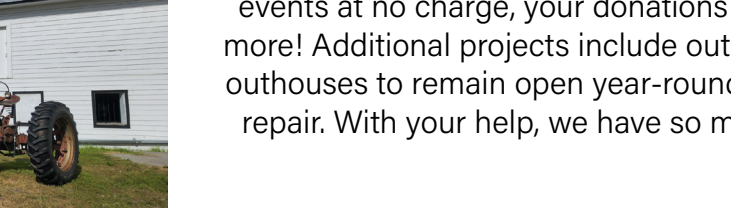
## Friends of Creamer's Field Online Store

Check out the new items available on our online store!



## Thank you for being a Friend!

In addition to allowing us to provide our Refuge programs and events at no charge, your donations have allowed us to enable much more! Additional projects include outhouse cleaning to do four outhouses to remain open year-round, dairy roof painting, and trail repair. With your help, we have so much more planned for 2023!



### 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."

