

# Field Notes

November 2022

Greetings Friends,

The Refuge is coated in a thin layer of white and the buzz of birds preparing for migration has been replaced with the quiet chirp of winter birds at the feeder.

As we move into the last few weeks of 2022, we look forward to our winter programs. Thanksgiving for the Birds will be held in the Farmhouse Visitor Center on Saturday, November 19 from 12 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, December 3 from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. we will hold our Annual Luminary Trail and Holiday Ornament Making event. You can stop by and enjoy a hot beverage while making Christmas ornaments and walking the candlelit trail around the historic barn complex.

New items have been added to the gift shop! Beanies, pins, stickers, and so much more! Check out our online store at the link below or stop by the Farmhouse Visitor Center to see all of the new items.

Thank you for supporting the Refuge!

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

Photo: Black-capped chickadee feeds on trees along the trail at Creamer's Field. Photo by Grace Nelson.

Join the  
Friends of Creamer's Field for...

# Thanksgiving FOR THE BIRDS!

**Saturday, November 19**  
**12:00 - 3:00 pm**

Creamer's Field Farmhouse Visitor's Center

**Make birdfeeders  
and learn about  
winter birds  
in Alaska!**

**\$5 SUGGESTED  
DONATION!**

For more information, contact  
the Friends of Creamer's Field at  
(907) 978-8457 or visit  
[www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org)

**Shop Friends of Creamer's Field this Holiday Season!**  
 Get a head start on your Christmas shopping and check out the new items available on our online store or at the Farmhouse Visitor Center! You are sure to find the perfect holiday gift for you loved ones.  
 All proceeds fund the programs of Friends of Creamer's Field.



## Field Sketch

*Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross*

**Look to see what's on top of the Tree**

*A small ball on a tree top?*  
It could be a bunch of old leaves or...  
...a **Northern Hawk Owl**.

**Sitting Sentinel**  
Scan the horizon near and far. There is a chance; that dark ball-shape could be a Hawk Owl looking for prey. Vole activity is high at this writing; voles are their primary prey.

**Northern Hawk Owls** are found in their preferred habitat: muskeg. The wide open spaces punctuated with plenty of perches, bring in the owls searching for their favored prey...

...for the Hawk Owl that is voles. Voles, small rodents very similar to mice, are the mainstay of the Hawk Owl's diet.

**Thanksgiving for the Birds**  
Saturday, November 19th, Noon to 3PM.  
Meet in the Farmhouse by the Barns for...  
...easy feeder construction, Then...  
**Take to the Trails and find a Hawk Owl**  
Information-- 978-8457

**Field Sketches:**  
Mark D. Ross

*11-7-22:  
for the last week  
a Hawk Owl is seen  
on the southern farm.  
Saw 15-20 feeders at the refuge  
- MDR*

**Conservation Corner**  
One of the least-studied birds in North America, the Northern Hawk Owl is truly boreal. Even in winter, it rarely wanders to southern Canada or the northern "lower 48".

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Annual Meeting

December 3, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. • Farmhouse Visitor Center

**Meet the Friends of Creamer's Field Board of Directors  
and learn about what FOCF has accomplished in 2022!**

# Luminary Trail

and Holiday Ornament Making!

**December 3**  
**4:00 - 8:00 pm**

Trail starts at the  
Farmhouse Visitor's Center

## Arctic Audubon Society Presentation:

### "What lynx do when we are not watching (they think)"

Join the Arctic Audubon Society on Monday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Noel Wien Library Auditorium for their monthly program.

This month's program, "What lynx do when we are not watching (they think)", will be presented by UAF Biology Professor, Knut Kielland.

"Innovations in tracking technology and analytical methods have allowed biologists to observe the ecology of lynx remotely in near real time. Here I will highlight the research conducted by my graduate students pertaining to new insights in lynx activity patterns, long-range dispersal movements, and behavior associated with kit rearing and territoriality."

For additional information, visit the link below or call (907) 479-2954.

## NIGHT FOR THE NORTH

**Northern Alaska Environmental Center**  
**Night for the North**

Camp Habitat collaborator, NAEC, is hosting a fundraiser on November 18, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Wood Center Ballroom.

Some of the funds raised will support scholarships and operating costs of Camp Habitat.

Visit the link below for more information.

## 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 do much more! Additional projects include outhouse cleaning to enable 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**  
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**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."*