

# Field Notes

February 2023



Photo: Moose in front of the Regional ADFG building. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

Hello Friends!

We are kicking off our 2023 events next week with Valentine's Day Crafts! Join us on Thursday, February 9th from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. All lovers of Wildlife Conservation are invited!

We will also be hosting a Track Walk with ADF&G's Mike Taras and Mark Ross on Saturday, February 18th starting at 12 p.m. (noon) outside the Farmhouse Visitor Center.

Our 2022 Annual Report is now available. You can find the full report linked below or under the 'Annual Reports & Newsletters' tab on our website.

See you at the Refuge!

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

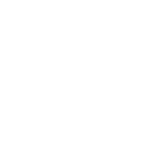
## Creamer's Field is for Lovers... of Wildlife Conservation

Come make wildlife Valentine's Day crafts on

**February 9**

4:00 - 7:00 pm

at the Creamer's Field  
Farmhouse Visitor Center



Fun for  
all ages!

### Track Walk

Friends of Creamer's Field and ADFG

## Wildlife Tracks in Winter

Saturday, February 18th,  
**12 pm**



it's all at Creamer's Field  
back by the Barns

Call 907-459-7301 for information

### 2022 Annual Report

Check out the 2022 Annual Report at  
the link below:



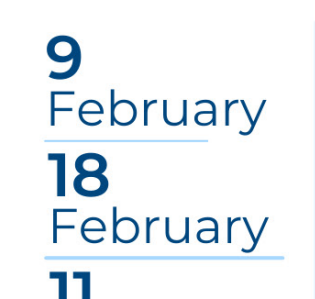
**2022  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**Pick.  
Click.  
Give.**

### Be sure to Pick.Click.Give. in 2023!

Pick.Click.Give. to support Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge  
when filing for your 2023 Permanent Fund Dividend. Click the link below for  
more information:



## 2023 Programs & Events Schedule

Schedule subject to change. Programs take place at Creamer's Field unless otherwise noted.  
Please call (907) 978-8457, visit our website [www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org), or visit our  
social media @friendsofcreamersfield for program updates and announcements!

**9**  
February

**18**  
February

**11**  
March

**29**  
April

**11**  
June

**16**  
July

**18 - 20**  
August

**21**  
October

**18**  
November

**7 - 8**  
December

**9**  
December

**12 - 13**  
December

#### Valentine's Day Crafts

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

#### Winter Track Walk

12:00 pm

#### Nest Box Building

1:00 pm

RSVP only

#### Spring Migration Celebration

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

#### Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### Creamer's Dairy Day

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

#### Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival

All weekend

#### Creepy Critters

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

#### Thanksgiving for the Birds

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

#### Holiday Crafts Night

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### Luminary Trail

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### Holiday Crafts Night

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### Guided Nature Walks:

**June 1 - August 31**

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

10:00 am



**Design  
Alaska**

**Pick.Click.Give.**

**MARION G. WEEKS  
FOUNDATION**

**BILL STROECKER  
FOUNDATION**

**ConocoPhillips**

**KINROSS**

**Fort Knox**

**We're  
Hiring!**

### Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

Creamer's Field, your local wildlife refuge

#### Field Sketches:

visit off College Rd. - back by the big barns.



up in the trees...

Feeding in the trees, Redpolls knock birch seeds to the ground.

On the snow beneath the boughs, Redpolls plow along gobbling fallen birch seed.



down on the ground...

You don't need a bird feeder to hear the frenzy of feeding Redpolls this January.

If you've spent time out near birch trees, you've seen or heard the energized flocks of twittering, rose-tinted finches feeding on the abundant crop of birch seeds. Redpolls are always around in our Tanana Valley; some winters they're more prevalent than others. Last year there were only a few; but this year the local Audubon group counted close to two thousand during the annual Christmas count (visit [arctic.audubon.org](http://arctic.audubon.org) to view all count records). Redpolls are birds of the Boreal Forest but, some do wander away in winter. Redpolls are superb flyers and, studies show, flocks make forays as far south as central Pennsylvania and Washington state.

The "irruption" occurs about every two years and is driven by food availability. Locally here, that would be birch seed. There's a lot now and the birds are back *en masse*. Redpolls have a unique physical feature that extends feeding time into the nightly roost: pouch-like sacks along the side of the neck. The official name for this organ is *esophageal diverticula*. An adaptation of the bird's throat, it's like a knapsack filled with food, accessible to the bird while it rests.

Want to see Redpolls? Visit the Feeder Station at Creamer's Field Farmhouse. See Redpolls feeding along with Chickadees, Woodpeckers and more

Mark D. Ross

Common Redpoll (Carduelis flammea) Length: 5.25"



A pouch under the skin, above each shoulder, a storage sack for seeds.

Redpoll feeding on birch catkin.

## Shop Friends of Creamer's Field this Holiday Season!

Purchase Creamer's Field merchandise from the comfort of your own home.



### TONIGHT!

#### Arctic Audubon: Raven Speaker Series

Join Arctic Audubon on February 6, 2023 in the Carlson Center Pioneer Room for a presentation by Doug Christman "Ravens Calling in a Random Forest."



### Thank you for being a Friend!

As a 100% community funded organization, your support allows us to offer free educational programs to the Fairbanks community and its visitors. This year we intend to expand our educational outreach, resurface the parking lot closest to the barns, improve trail accessibility, and update our interpretive signage throughout the Refuge.

Photo: Moon rises over Creamer's Field. Photo by Melanie Graeff.



#### Our Contact Information

Friends of Creamer's Field

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[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."

