

# Field Notes

April 2023



Photo: Snow Buntings at Creamer's Field. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

Greeting Friends!

Spring is on its way! The Snow Buntings made their first appearance on the Refuge a few weeks ago and a group of visitors saw the resident Marmot this week.

The Airport is plowing the fields today (Friday) in preparation for all of the migratory birds making their way south. As a friendly reminder, please stay out of the fields once they are plowed. We need to give the birds plenty of space to prepare for the rest of their journey.

With all of these Refuge happenings, we have a lot to celebrate! We hope that you will join us for the Spring Migration Celebration on April 29th from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. We will have crafts, walks, and presentations throughout the afternoon. You will also be able to talk with local outdoor organizations.

Sharing Nature training has just started! If you are interested in attending the remaining sessions, please contact Mark Ross (mark.ross@alaska.gov).

As always, thank you for being a Friend of Creamer's Field!

Best,

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

## Sharing Nature Program

It is not too late to join us for this multi-week training course.

Sessions run from March 30 to May 11 and meet every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The goal of course instruction is to impart an understanding of the natural history of the forests, wetlands, and fields along with the history of Creamer's Field. Participants will also learn the art of planning and leading short programs designed for the audience and natural environment.

If you have questions about this course please contact

Mark Ross  
(907) 459-3701  
mark.ross@alaska.gov.

You can also register at the link below:

**Take a Look!**

**Sharing Nature**

*and History at Creamer's Field*

*Enjoy the Outdoors each session*

**Learn to Share Nature with Summer Visitors**  
on the trails and in the nature/visitor center

**Enjoy the Outdoors each session March 30 to May 11**  
Thursday evenings  
at Creamer's Farmhouse  
6:00 to 8:00pm

*Attention Educators:  
1 or \*2 credits optional ED 593*

**\*Register soon:  
Class limit, 25 participants**



## The Fields are ready for the birds!

The Fairbanks International Airport brought over their machinery to clear strips of the fields for the birds today. The Kiwanis will be spreading grain on Saturday.

Please stay out of the fields when recreating at Creamer's Field. The birds will need lots of space to prepare for their summer.

Thank you!

Photo: Fairbanks International Airport equipment clearing snow in the front viewing fields at Creamer's Field. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

# CAMP HABITAT 2023

## Nature Sprouts (ages 4-5) - \$175

June 12-16, 2023 8:30a.m.-12:00p.m.

June 12-16, 2023 1:00p.m.-4:30p.m.

## Nature Detectives (ages 6-7) - \$275

June 26-30, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

July 10-14, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

July 17-21, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

## Water Striders (ages 8-9) - \$275

June 26-30, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

July 10-14, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

July 17-21, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

## Refuge Adventurers (ages 10-11) - \$275

June 26-30, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

July 10-14, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

July 17-21, 2023 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

**\*You may register your camper for one week out of the listed sessions.**

Registration opens  
March 20th

## Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

**Field Sketches: Barking Moose**

Mark D. Ross *Late Winter, early Spring is the season of Barking Moose.*

In October when leaves of woody plants are gone, **moose graze** in the fields, down on their "wrists", eating the "greens" from last fall's grain crop.

Later as snow deepens, moose feed exclusively on small twigs.

The name "moose" is Algonquin for "twig eater".

Moose lack upper incisor teeth, thus the ragged cut of browsed twigs.

**Barking marks**  
The raking marks from the lower incisors of moose are often mistaken as bear claw scrapes.

During late winter and early spring, moose will scrape up aspen bark; **"Barking"** for food.

Moose are members of the deer family (the largest) and like all adult deer, moose do not have upper incisor teeth.

During the summer, moose browse on leaves. Willows are a favorite.

## UPCOMING EVENT: Spring Migration Celebration

*Celebrate the change of seasons...*

# SPRING MIGRATION CELEBRATION

**Fun for all ages!**

AT CREAMER'S FIELD MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023**  
**12:00 - 4:00 PM**

**ENJOY CRAFTS, WILDLIFE VIEWING, NATURE WALKS, AND MEETING LOCAL OUTDOOR ORGANIZATIONS!**

For more information visit  
[www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org)  
or call (907) 978-8457.



## Other Happenings in Fairbanks



Photo: Bar-tailed Godwit. Photo by Mark Lindberg.

## Delta Junction Migratory Bird Viewing Field Trip

**April 23, 2023, All Day**

The Arctic Audubon Society is hosting a field trip on April 23 to the Delta Junction area to view migratory birds. This all-day trip will be led by Arctic Audubon Board Member Ryan Marsh. Meet at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse parking lot at 8 AM sharp. Dress for walking in snow (possibly mud) and bring lunch, snacks, and water.

Photo: Northern Pintail pair. Photo by Ken Whitten

## Ecology & Conservation of the Breeding Birds of the Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta

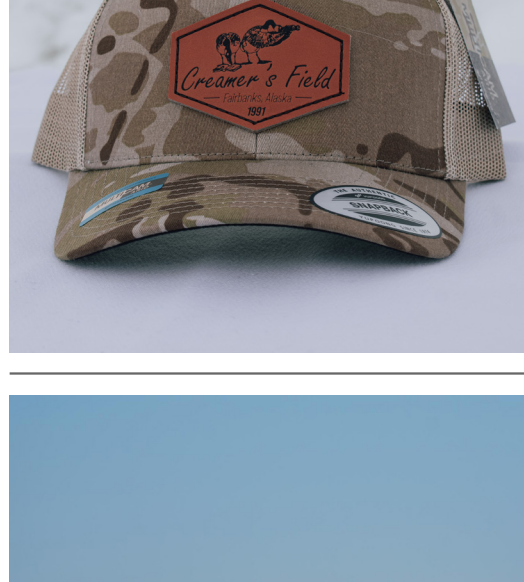
**Dr. Mark Lindberg**

Join Arctic Audubon Society and the Alaska Songbird Institute for their next program: Ecology & Conservation of the Breeding Birds of the Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta by Dr. Mark Lindberg. The program will take place at 7:30 pm on Monday, April 10 at the Carlson Center North Star Room (walk through the Pioneer Room). The speaker will be Dr. Mark Lindberg, a UAF wildlife ecology professor, who will discuss the shorebirds and waterfowl he has studied in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge since 1990.



## Shop Friends of Creamer's Field

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



## 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

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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."*

