

Field Notes

September 2023



Photo: Creamer's Field trail. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

Greetings Friends!

Autumn has officially arrived at Creamer's Field. The leaves have changed and started to fall and the last of the migratory birds are preparing for their flight south.

We are excited about shifting to our fall and winter programs. Creepy Critters is right around the corner on October 21. This year's event will focus on the Boreal Bloodsucker, the Mosquito! Attendees will learn about the importance of mosquitoes to Alaska's ecosystem, swap mosquito repellent recipes, and complete mosquito-themed crafts! We hope to see you there!

See you at the Refuge,

Grace & Melanie
Friends of Creamer's Field Staff



Pre-Festival Activities

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge became home to a nesting pair of Northern Hawk Owls for the better part of a year. These solitary and mysterious birds of prey remained a constant and extraordinary presence here on the refuge for humans and wildlife alike. Their visible hunting and nesting activities created an accessible spectacle. Many dedicated local birders and refuge staff were able to document every daily aspect of these owls' lives from witnessing daily hunting during the late fall and winter, mating, establishing a nesting site, successfully raising young, and battling other local predators for territory throughout the many months of their residence here on the refuge.

Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival

Thank you to everyone who came out to the 2023 Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival! We had a great week of activities and cannot wait till 2024!



UPCOMING EVENT: Creepy Critters

Prepare to swat! The Boreal Bloodsuckers are coming for you!

The Friends of Creamer's Field presents our Creepy Critters program, Boreal Bloodsuckers!

Living here in Alaska, we are all aware of the multitudes of mosquitoes present during the warmer seasons. Come on by to learn about the complex habitats, life cycles, and even benefits of these much-detested insects. We'll also be sharing ways and strategies on how to deal with mosquitoes! This event is FREE to the public! Enjoy beverages and treats, costumes are encouraged!

OCTOBER 21
12:00 - 4:00 PM

BOREAL BLOODSUCKERS

CREAMER'S FIELD FARMHOUSE VISITOR CENTER

LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH MOSQUITOES IN ALASKA!

ACTIVITIES • TREATS • DISPLAYS

For more information, call (907) 978-8457 or visit www.friendsofcreamersfield.org.

Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
Field Sketches:
Visit at 1300 College Rd. back by the big barns.

Red Squirrel
Total length: 14 in.

Red Squirrel plucking White Spruce cone.

Red Squirrel's Fall Food storage
Constructed of cones for food storage and subterranean shelter;
I discovered *the most massive midden* in my experience.

Black Spruce cone
.75"

White Spruce cone
1.5"

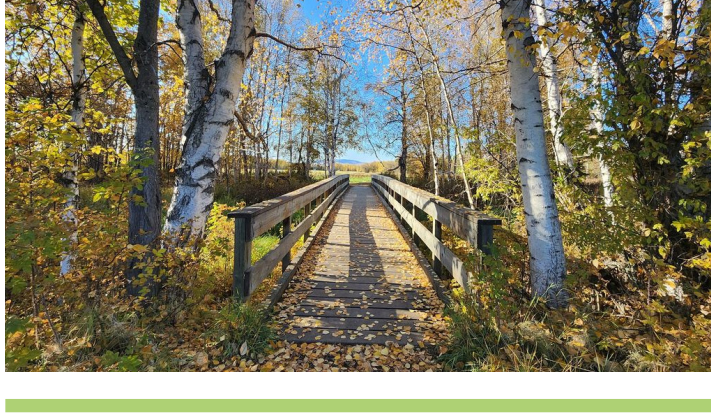
MASSIVE
Red Squirrel Midden in Spruce Forest
30 feet in length

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Mark D. Ross
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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: Autumn colors near Jussila Creek bridge. 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."

