

Field Notes

October 2023



Photo: Sunrise over Creamer's Field. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

Happy Halloween Friends!

The Refuge has settled into the winter season. The whole Refuge is covered in a light layer of snow and the winter-use trails are groomed and ready for use! Special thank you to the Alaska Skijoring & Pulk Association and the Alaska Dog Mushing Association for maintaining the skiing and mushing trails all winter long.

Friends of Creamer's Field celebrated Halloween early this year with Creepy Critters: Boreal Bloodsuckers! This fun event included mosquito masks, treats, and lots of mosquito facts. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us!

We are looking forward to our next event, Thanksgiving for the Birds on November 18th. Be sure to join us from 12PM - 4PM to make your own winter bird feeders. We hope to see you at the Farmhouse!

Best,

Grace & Melanie
Friends of Creamer's Field Staff



Attention: Boreal Forest Trail CLOSED

The Boreal Forest Trail is currently closed to all recreators.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game staff are currently removing parts of the boardwalk to prepare for the renovations next summer. Please stay off of the trail while this work is being completed.

We will be sure to keep you updated on the progress for the new boardwalk, coming 2024!

UPCOMING EVENT: Thanksgiving for the Birds!

Gather all the feathered friends at your house this season!

Join us for Thanksgiving for the Birds on Saturday, November 18 at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse from 12 - 4pm. Make bird feeders and learn about the winter birds in Alaska!

FREE and FUN for all ages!

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

Thanksgiving FOR THE BIRDS!

Saturday, November 18
12:00 - 4:00 pm

Creamer's Field Farmhouse Visitor Center

Make birdfeeders and learn about winter birds in Alaska!

New Farmhouse Visitor Center Hours

We have moved to our winter season hours at the Farmhouse Visitor Center. Please take note of the new hours below.

FARMHOUSE VISITOR CENTER

Updated Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday:
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday:
12:00 - 4:00 pm

Sunday:
CLOSED

Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

Chickadees don't fly as fast as the feeder...

A shrike is eating about in the struts...

At close range the black-white patterns are obvious. Fieldmark's in a shrike

Shrike Flight:
In low level pursuit the shrike flies like an arrow with shallow, rapid wing beats.

Birds aren't the only prey: Shrikes will strike small mammals too.

Northern Shrike
Lanius excubitor

Shrike "Black Bird"

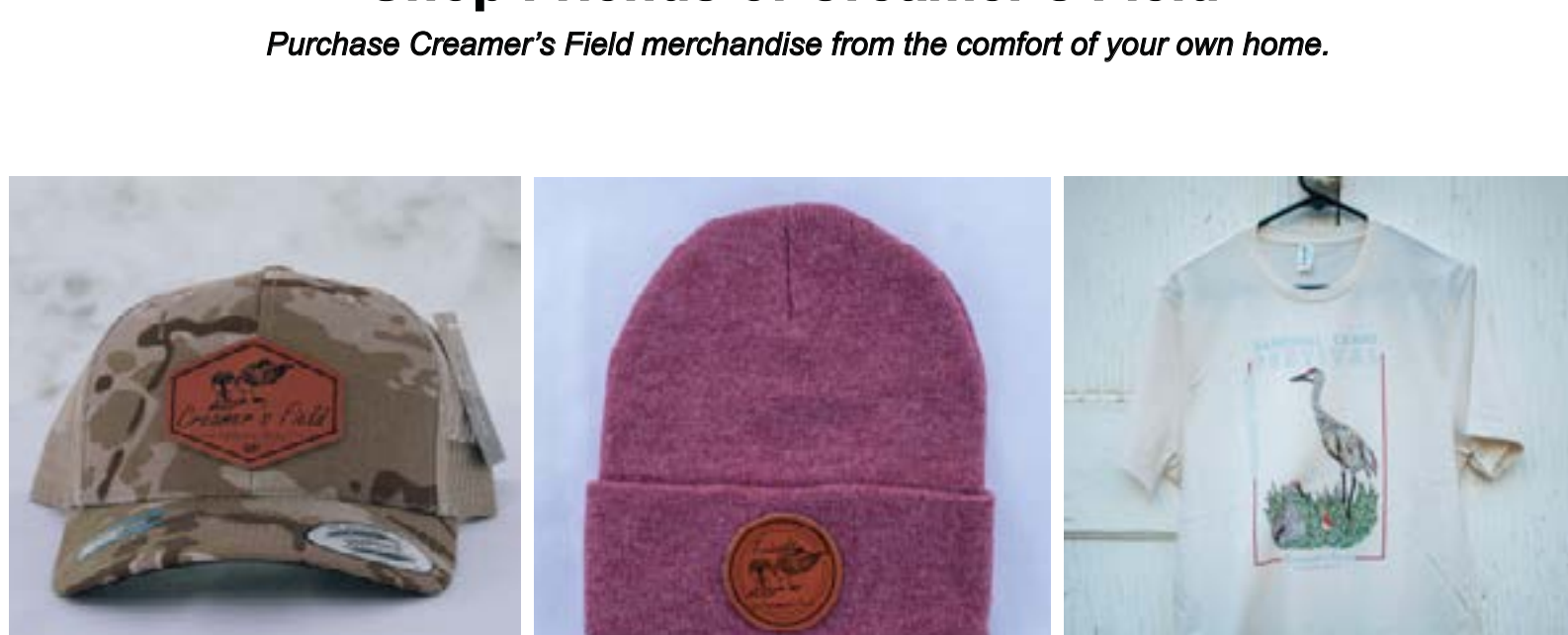
Northern Shrike with Chickadee

If you see a robin-sized bird carrying a big bundle in its beak, there's a good chance the bird is a shrike with prey. Though hawk-like in diet, the shrike is a songbird not a hawk and accordingly, the shrike's foot is made for perching, not for piercing prey. To make up for the lack of large taloned feet, the shrike possesses a strong, tongued bill for killing. Using the upper "toothed" mandible, prey is dispatched by bites at the base of the skull. No need to transfer prey to the weak feet, it's most often carried away in the thick, strong bill.

a Great Gift!
Get the Field Sketches book - 205 pages of Nature - at the Farmhouse back by the barns 459-7901

Shop Friends of Creamer's Field

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

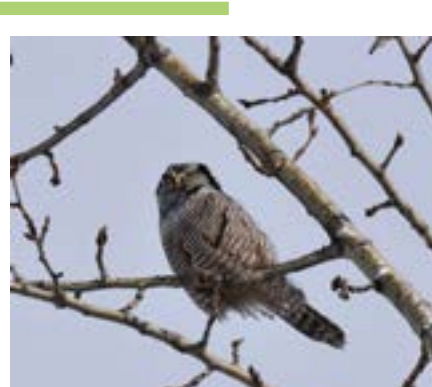


Other Happenings in Fairbanks

2023 Birding Highlight

Arctic Audubon Society
November 6, 2023 | 8:00PM

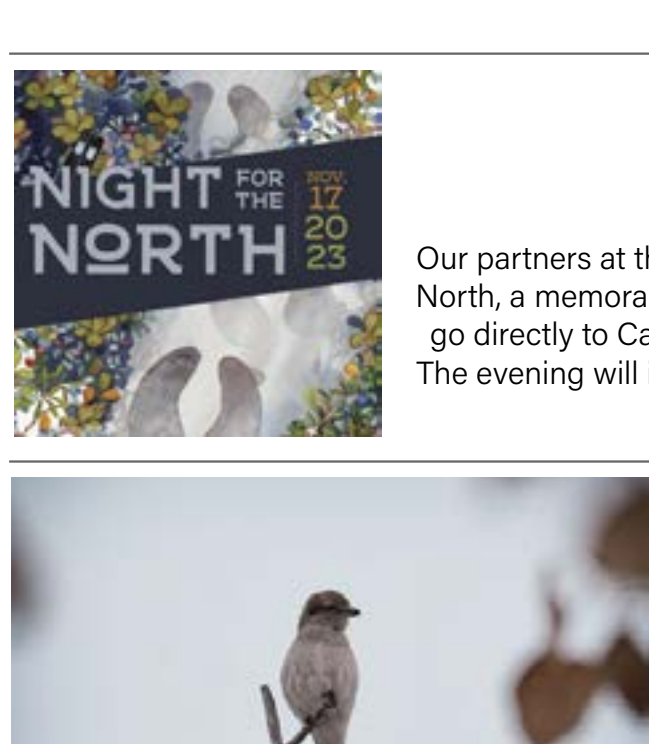
Join the Arctic Audubon Society for the first program in their Winter Speaker series happening on Monday, November 6 at 8:00 pm in the Carlson Center Pioneer Room! This month's program will feature local birders and photographers showcasing their best birding highlights of 2023! Listen to their stories of discovery while viewing their incredible photos.



Night for the North

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
November 17, 2023 | 6:30PM

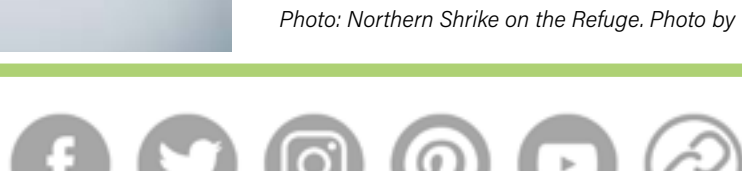
Our partners at the Northern Alaska Environmental Center invite you to Night for the North, a memorable evening to benefit their programs. A portion of the proceeds will go directly to Camp Habitat, our nature and ecology camp here in Creamer's Field. The evening will include a buffet dinner with Alaskan salmon, a live auction featuring some great experiences, and a dessert auction.



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: Northern Shrike on the Refuge. 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."

