

# Field Notes

November 2023



Photo: Snow covered viewing field at Creamer's Field. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

Hello Friends!

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Our bird feeder program, Thanksgiving for the Birds was a success. The birds of Fairbanks will be well fed this winter!

The last few programs of 2023 are right around the corner. We will be hosting several Holiday Craft/Ornament making nights this year. Be sure to stop by on December 7, 8, 12, or 13th to make your own holiday creation.

The annual Luminary Trail will be on Saturday, December 9th from 5PM - 8PM. Walk the candle-lit trail before stopping by the Farmhouse for a hot beverage and some treats. The gift shop will also be open to pick up the perfect gift for the Creamer's Field lover in your life.

For more information on any of the upcoming events, check out the links below or visit our website, [www.friendsofcreamersfield.org](http://www.friendsofcreamersfield.org).

Best,

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Holiday Craft Nights

Join us at the Farmhouse Visitor Center for our Holiday Craft Nights on December 7, 8, 12, and 13 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm.

Create holiday ornaments, decorations, and cards! Free and fun for all ages. While supplies last.

The nightly craft schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, December 7: Cards & Ornaments
- Friday, December 8: Cards & Garland
- Tuesday, December 12: Cards & Ornaments
- Wednesday, December 13: Cards & Garland

For more information or for updates, visit the Facebook event by clicking the button below.



### Trek through a luminous winter wonderland at Creamer's Field!

Join the Friends of Creamer's Field on Saturday, December 9th from 5:00 - 8:00 pm for a stroll around the ½ mile candlelit trail on the refuge. Hot beverages and treats can be found inside the Farmhouse Visitor Center.

Free and fun for all ages! Dress warm!



## Boreal Buzz

### Seeking Songbirds: Fall Bird Banding at Creamer's Field Migration Station

The Creamer's Field Migration Station captured many songbirds at their research station this fall! Come learn about the research project that the Alaska Songbird Institute has been leading at the refuge! Read the Boreal Buzz blog post here:



## Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

### The Bird Feeder Food Chain

Feeders provide food for more than the commonly seen songbirds. The abundant songbirds are at times prey for predators.

Nature's order often dictates that predators are rare, much more so than their abundant prey. Also, predators must be stealthy and quick; the element of surprise is vital for success in the hunt. Thus, the rare predator comes and goes quickly, often unseen by us.

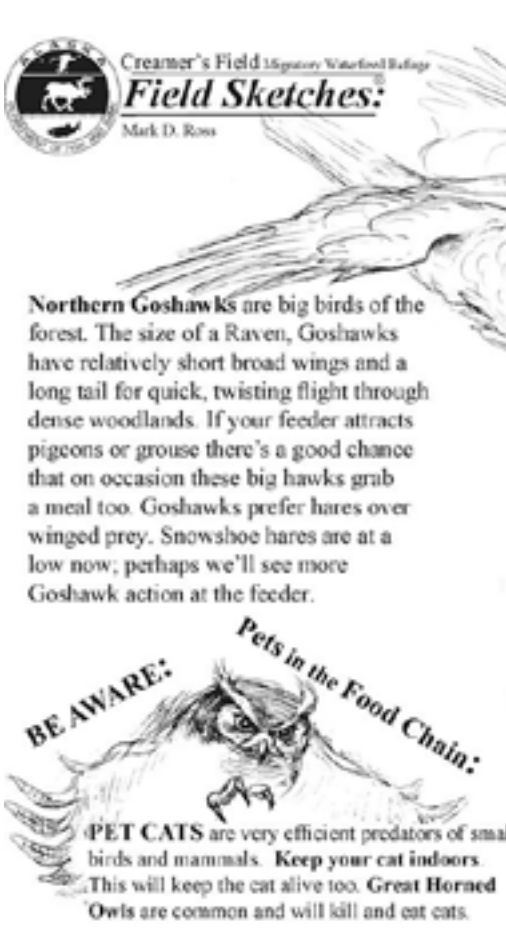
Whether your feeder is in town or out in the woods the inevitable predator will visit. Pigeons or grouse may attract a Goshawk. The small songbirds are prey for small Boreal Owls.

*A Ruffed Grouse feeding on the ground is ambushed by a Goshawk.*

*Boreal Owl with Black-capped Chickadee*

Boreal Owls are our smallest owls. 10 inches in length, they're about the size of a Robin. Small birds and mammals are their primary prey. Cypically camouflaged, they perch quietly and motionless near the feeder waiting for unsuspecting prey.

*Notes feeding on left-overs under feeders are owl food too.*



## Shop Friends of Creamer's Field

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

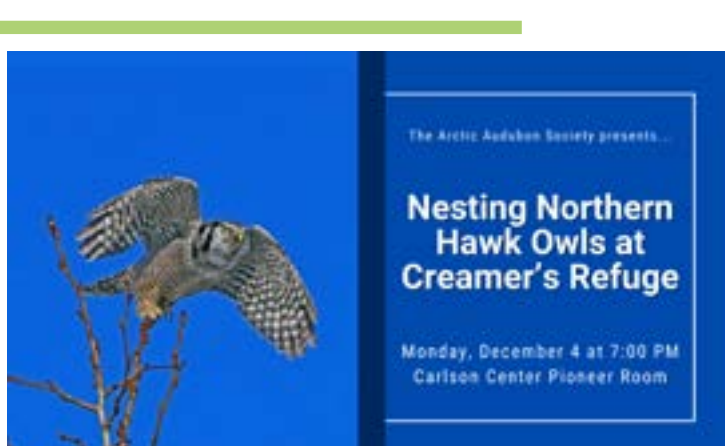


## Other Happenings in Fairbanks

### Program: Nesting Northern Hawk Owls at Creamer's Field

Arctic Audubon Society  
December 4, 2023 | 7:00PM  
Carlson Center, Pioneer Room

This program is free and everyone is welcome. Creamer's Field became home to a nesting pair of Northern Hawk Owls during the winter of 2022-2023. Every daily aspect of these owls' lives was documented from witnessing daily hunting, mating, finding nesting sites, successfully raising young, and battling other local predators for territory throughout the many months of their residence here on the refuge. Experience the chronology of these owls on the refuge from dedicated volunteers and refuge staff through careful observation and breathtaking photos!



## Christmas Bird Count

Arctic Audubon Society & Alaska Songbird Institute  
Saturday, December 16

If you live inside the count circle, you can do a feeder count or field count; if you are outside the circle, you can join a field team. If there's a certain area you want to count in, contact that area coordinator listed on Arctic Audubon's website. If you don't have a preference, contact David Hejna at 716-951-0213. Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate.

From the Arctic Circle to the mountain valleys of the Andes, tens of thousands of people are gearing up to take part in the world's longest-running citizen science project—the Christmas Bird Count. Birders of all levels have been braving the elements to count birds during a three-week period each year since the count began in 1900. Even though the count is somewhat loosely organized, having 123 years of data on bird species and numbers documents important trends.



## 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, improve 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."

