



Field Notes

June 2024



Photo: The Seasonal wetlands. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

Happy Summer Solstice, Friends!

Today marks the longest day of the year. The sun rose at 2:57 AM this morning and will not set until 12:47 AM, giving Fairbanks a total of 21 hours and 49 minutes of daylight today.

Fairbanks will be a busy place this weekend, celebrating the official start of summer. Creamer's Field is no exception!

The 17th Annual Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk is happening this Sunday, June 23rd from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We have over 30 local artists who will be set up along the trails selling their work. Fireweed Bites-n-Things and Duncan's Sno-balls will also be on-site with their delicious treats and sandwiches. The Fairbanks Children's Museum will be hosting kids' activities, and Camp Habitat will be doing face painting. Admission is \$5, and youth 17 and under are free. Attendees will receive a limited edition Wild Arts Walk mug courtesy of Design Alaska (while supplies last).

It will be a fun afternoon at Creamer's Field. We hope that you join us!

See you at the Refuge!

Grace & Melanie
Friends of Creamer's Field Staff

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk
June 23, 2024 | 11:00am - 4:00pm
Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge



Join the Friends of Creamer's Field for our 17th annual Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk.

Walk the Creamer's Field trails amongst the birds and flowers beneath the warmth of the summer sun and immerse yourselves in artwork from over 30 local artists! They will be showcasing and selling art of all kinds. You can find that perfect artwork to take home or find gifts for friends and family. Choose from unique paintings, prints, pottery, photography, and more.

Watch local artists race against the clock to complete a masterpiece in only one hour at the Quick Draw Event, starting at 1:00 p.m.

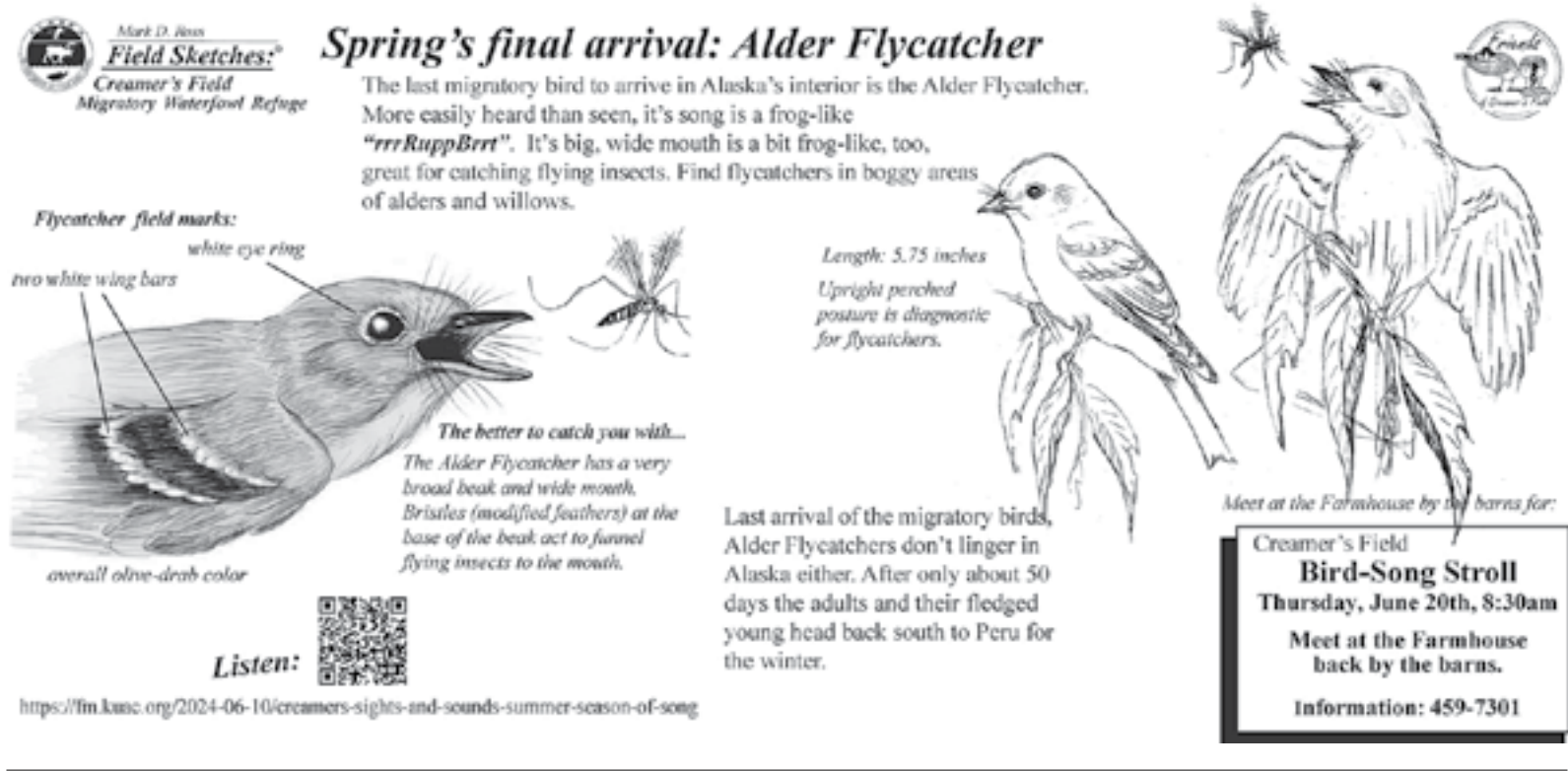


Admission is \$5.00 per person for 18+, 17 and under are FREE. Upon admission, each family receives a collector's edition Wild Arts Walk mug courtesy of Design Alaska!

All proceeds go to support the Friends of Creamer's Field year-round educational programs and our wonderful local artists!

Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross



Spring's final arrival: Alder Flycatcher
The last migratory bird to arrive in Alaska's interior is the Alder Flycatcher. More easily heard than seen, it's song is a frog-like "rrrrRuppBrrr". It's big, wide mouth is a bit frog-like, too, great for catching flying insects. Find flycatchers in boggy areas of alders and willows.


Flycatcher field marks:
white eye ring
two white wing bars
overall olive-drab color

The better to catch you with...
The Alder Flycatcher has a very broad beak and wide mouth. Bristles (modified feathers) at the base of the beak act to funnel flying insects to the mouth.

Length: 5.75 inches
Upright perched posture is diagnostic for flycatchers.

Last arrival of the migratory birds, Alder Flycatchers don't linger in Alaska either. After only about 50 days the adults and their fledged young head back south to Peru for the winter.

Meet at the Farmhouse by the barns for:
Creamer's Field Bird-Song Stroll
Thursday, June 20th, 8:30am
Meet at the Farmhouse back by the barns.
Information: 459-7301

Listen: 

<https://fm.kusc.org/2024-06-10/creamers-sights-and-sounds-summer-season-of-song>

Camp Habitat 2024



Camp Habitat 2024 has officially kicked off!

30 Nature Sprouts have been exploring Creamer's Field this week, learning about nature and ecology. Next week starts the full day sessions for youth ages 6-11.

Camp Habitat Registration

For any Camp Habitat inquiries you can contact Camp Director Lauren Puleo at camphabitat@friendsofcreamersfield.org or call (907) 888-7304.

Boreal Buzz

It's Nesting Season!

What Should You Do If You Find a Baby Bird?



It's nesting season! What should you do if you find a baby bird? It is understandable to want to help wildlife that seems to be in trouble, but it is generally best to leave wild animals alone.

Read our newest post on the best course of action and what to do if a baby bird is found on the Boreal Buzz Blog:

Meet the ADF&G Refuge Manager: Clint Cooper

Clint Cooper began as the Refuge Manager of the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in December 2023. Visit the link below to read more about Clint's background and plans for Creamer's Field!



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.



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."