

# Field Notes

P.O. Box 81065 Fairbanks, AK 99708 907-452-5162 creamers@ptialaska.net www.creamersfield.org

## On A Wing and a Prayer—Bird Flu Update

By Jess Ryan

Inside this issue

Board President ..... 3

Camp Habitat ..... 7

Creamer's Field Events ..... 8

Hairy Woodpecker ..... 6

Membership Form ..... 7

Owling Night ..... 3

Those Among Us ..... 4

Wild Arts Walk ..... 2

Insert:

Field Sketches: Nest Box

Wild Arts Walk

On or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, the first geese of the season will honk their way over the trees edging Creamer's Field and, with black feet outstretched, drop down to enjoy a banquet of grain spread for them. Soon thereafter pintails, mallards, widgeons, and swans will arrive—a sure sign of spring in the Interior. But as we line the fence this year to enjoy the strutting, preening, and courtship of the noisy assemblage, we will surely wonder if any of these birds harbor the

H5N1 virus—the deadly bird flu that is sweeping through Asia, Europe, and now Africa.

The media has provided much background on the H5N1 virus, with grim photographs of the culling of tens of millions of chickens and the constant reminder of the potential for human casualties if this disease jumps hosts and becomes the next global pandemic. Little, however, has been written about the devastating affects of this disease on waterfowl populations. The silent spring fore-

told by Rachael Carson could come in the form of avian influenza.

The H5N1 virus was spawned in the hothouse-like environment of poultry markets in Southeast Asia, first appearing in Guangdong Province, China in 1996 and in Hong Kong the following year. It resurfaced in 2003 and quickly spread to Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Initially, the spread of the disease was limited to

*continued on page 2*

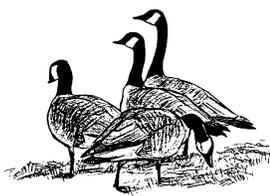
## Winter Trail Use at Creamer's Field

By Pat DeRuyter

Most Friends of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge are aware of all the wonderful activities that happen on the Refuge during the spring, summer, and fall months. I'd like to let you know what is happening on the Refuge in the winter.

The Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association (ASPA) has, for the last 10 years, held a seasonal use permit to put out signs and groom the trails on the Refuge. The trails include a one-quarter mile training loop behind (north of) the Alaska Department of Fish and Game building, a half-mile loop between the training loop and the Alaska Feed Company, a one-mile loop around the west fields, and a two-mile loop on the east side of the farm buildings. These trails are connected to the Alaska Dog Mushing Association trails to the north of the farmhouse. ASPA

*continued on page 5*



### Our Mission

Friends of Creamer's Field is a community based, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational, historical, and interpretive programs throughout the year at Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.



Sara Elzey skijoring at Creamer's Field.

Photo by Pat DeRuyter

From the director...

## First Annual *Wild Arts Walk*

By Jess Ryan

Imagine this... A sunny morning in early June; the iris are blooming in a meandering stream of color near the old barns. Swallows snatch lazy early season mosquitoes overhead, while Swainson's Thrush call from the edge of the boreal forest. Colorful tents line the farmhouse road, and music drifts on a warm breeze. It is the first annual *Wild Arts Walk*, with artists, musicians and craftsmen making and displaying their

art in a spring fundraising event for Friends of Creamer's Field.

*Wild Arts Walk* will take place on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 am–2 pm. Artists will participate at no cost and will have an opportunity to sell their work and mingle with other artists. For the public it will be an opportunity to meet various artists, learn of area guilds, and see artists at work. A modest fee will support educational pro-

grams at the Refuge and will include a souvenir coffee cup, hot beverage, and a fresh pastry.

This event is made possible with financial support from Design Alaska and logistical support from the Fairbanks Arts Association. If you are an area artist and want to participate, call Friends of Creamer's Field at 452-5162 for more information. See the insert page of this newsletter for more information.

### Friends of Creamer's Field

#### Board Members

Bob Craig

Jim Chumbley (President)

Jeannie Creamer-Dalton

Susie Crevensten (Secretary)

Pat DeRuyter (Membership)

Ray Hadley

Donna Krier

Sherry Lewis

Gail Mayo

Herb Melchior

Joy Morrison

#### Non-Voting Members

Cathie Harms (ADF&G)

Mark Ross (ADF&G)

Jess Ryan (Executive  
Director of Friends)

This issue of *Field Notes*  
was produced by Mary Zalar

## Bird Flu Update

*continued from page 1*

the trade and movement of domestic fowl, mainly chickens. According to the World Health Organization, "this virus has caused the largest and most severe outbreaks in poultry on record."

In July 2004 the virus was found to be lethal to wild waterfowl. Wild birds were dying alongside domestic birds, but, at that time, were not the source of outbreaks. However, in May of 2005, 6,345 wild birds died at Lake Quighai in China, including an estimated 10% of the world population of bar-headed geese. This level of die-off from a bird flu is unprecedented. Subsequent waterfowl die-offs along migratory routes yield an identical genetic code, indicating that the virus is now spreading by means of these migration routes. To date, no known human infections have been linked to wild bird populations.

As 2005 progressed, the virus spread to birds in Turkey, Romania, Croatia, Ukraine, and Kuwait. In just the first six weeks of 2006, Iraq, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Iran, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Hungary, France, and Poland have joined the growing list of countries affected by the virus. Sadly, the bodies of mute swans have been the first indication of the disease in several of these countries, perhaps because they are so easy to spot.

With spring migration poised to begin, the looming question is, "Will the H5N1 virus spread to the Americas?" Scientists point to overlapping migration routes between the Pacific Flyway (which extends from the tip of South America to the Russian Far East) and the East Asian and the East-Asian-Australasian Flyways, which both include areas of active avian flu outbreaks. If avian

flu is to enter the new world by means of migration routes, Alaska is the most likely entry point. An ongoing study of non-lethal avian flu viruses in the Arctic, conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, indicates that virus transmission between these flyways already occurs.

According to Alaska Department of Fish and Game Waterfowl Coordinator Tom Rothe, the state will begin testing for the virus this year, beginning with subsistence-shot birds this spring and following up with fall harvest birds in Minto Flats and the Cook Inlet areas. Rothe explained that the flu has three distinct opportunities to enter Alaska.

1) During spring migration, some birds enter Alaska from Asia, where they overwinter. These include populations of bar-tailed godwits, dunlins, red knots, black brants, northern pintails, long-tailed

*continued on page 3*

## President's Message

By Jim Chumbley, Board President

As the euphoria of a highly successful crane festival subsides, the Friends of Creamer's Field Board of Directors is faced with the task of defining who we are as an organization and setting priorities for 2006. We have two new board members and a solid core of returning veterans who care deeply about the Refuge and our stewardship of its resources.

The energy of the Board is electric and infectious, but I sometimes feel as if we are operating in a vacuum. We all try to act in the best interests of the Refuge and our

membership, but we don't receive much feedback. This is your organization and the Board represents you, so we need you to tell us how we are doing and the direction you think the organization should be heading. The Board will be conducting a retreat in late February to set our future direction as an organization, and your input is essential.

Please contact me, Executive Director Jess Ryan, or any board member to share your ideas. Thank you for being part of promoting and protecting the crown jewel of Fairbanks!

## Bird Flu Update

*continued from page on 2*

ducks (old squaw), yellow-billed loons, and red-breasted mergansers. According to Rothe, "Based on what is known about the geographic distribution of the current H5N1 outbreaks, this is the group most likely to bring the virus to Alaska."

2) Later in the summer, common eider and king eider populations fly from Alaska to Asia to molt, returning in the fall once their plumage has grown back.

3) And then there are the birds that overshoot Alaska in the spring to breed in Siberia and the Russian Far East. "This group has become more important with the confirmation of H5N1 in poultry near Novosibirsk in Siberia." Examples include

Steller's eiders, spectacled eiders, emperor geese, sharp-tailed sandpipers, and sandhill crane. These birds could introduce the virus on their return to Alaska and subsequent journeys southward.

"About 29 species have a notable connection between Asia and Alaska, so these are the birds we want to look at," Rothe noted. Testing by Fish and Game will be augmented by USFWS fieldwork and ongoing research conducted by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

While loss of human life has been rare, the sweeping deaths among domestic poultry populations in Asia and Europe have been devastating. As new outbreaks are reported, there is talk of mass culling of wild birds and the draining of wetlands. On February 16, National Public Radio reported, "Uncon-



Hawk Owl at Creamer's Field  
Photo by Jess Ryan

## Owling Night

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 pm

Noel Wien Library Auditorium

See a live boreal owl and great horned owl with bird rehabilitator, Lorrie Hawkins. Learn about the unique ways of owls in the wild with biologist Jack Whitman, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Buy or build a nest box for owls (and other critters)—see the insert in this newsletter.

firmed reports that waterfowl are being shot are now in circulation." If unchecked, this hysteria is likely to create greater problems, causing wild birds to disperse to less-suitable feeding grounds and potentially spread the disease further.

Alaskans concerned about the disease are encouraged to take normal sanitation precautions. Rothe stresses, "H5N1 is presently a bird disease, so the public should not be overly concerned about getting the virus." He recommends that hunters use

gloves, clean their tools with a bleach solution, and cook meat well.

Song birds do not seem to be vectors for the disease, and the public is encouraged to continue feeding and enjoying them as always. Perhaps that is the take away message—enjoy the birds this spring as never before, listen to them call as they wing overhead, and offer up a wish for their well-being. For what would spring in Alaska be like without the arrival of our waterfowl, cranes, and shorebirds?

## Those Among Us: Dinner with Ginny Wood

By Jess Ryan

It's an intensely cold night at the end of January. Ginny Wood sits comfortably on a sofa in the living room of Susan Grace Stoltz and Keith Pollock's home, sharing stories of her life. Her narrative is a mosaic of experiences, friendships, and insights by a woman who, through design or good fortune, has lived a remarkable life.

Ginny was born by lantern light in 1917 in Moro, Oregon, population 300. The town's lone doctor delivered her after the generators shut down at midnight. Soon thereafter, she moved with her family to Waterville, Washington, a town of 900. "I always thought if you didn't grow up on a farm or in a small town you had a deprived childhood," she says and laughs when Keith refers to an atlas and finds that neither town has grown in the ensuing years. Her father ran an experimental farm in Waterville

and moved the family to Pendleton, Oregon during Ginny's high school years for a job in soil conservation.

In 1938 Ginny traveled in Europe for seven months, never spending more than a dollar a day. Her grandmother had left her \$500, and she could have used it to go back to college, but she had read about the youth hostels throughout Europe and decided to go. Ginny and two friends traveled to Europe on a freighter and then bought bicycles in England. Her eyes shine as she recounts cycling through Germany and she adds, "That was where I became a citizen of the world."

The trio was in Munich with plans to go to Czechoslovakia when Germany invaded. They saw troop trains going past and people told them, "There's going to be a war and you just better get out of here." They went to Italy instead, surmising that the Ital-

ians wouldn't be in the war for a while. Finally they returned home on a freighter.

Back in Washington, Ginny worked for the ski patrol at Mount Baker for several years before joining the Civil Service with the Air Force. Life-long friend Celia Hunter was also in the Civil Service. Ginny explains that the Air Force didn't want women back then and, consequently, she and Celia were paid \$100 less a month than the men. But when it came to flying there was no distinction—if you were trained on a plane, you flew it regardless of gender.

After the war Ginny and Celia took a job flying salvaged war planes to Fairbanks. Celia flew a five-seater Fairchild, while Ginny flew a "puddle jumper" with the back seat removed to carry stretchers during the war. One of the radios could receive incoming reports and the other could send them. Somehow they managed the trip in this fashion.

After a night in Northway, Alaska, they followed the railroad tracks into Fairbanks, arriving on January 1, 1947. With poor visibility, they spotted a couple of hangars by a dirt strip and began their final descent. When they were about 30 feet up, they realized the hangars were actually silos and that they were about to land at a dairy—Creamer's Dairy as it turned out. They located Weeks Field and arrived for what was to become the long haul.

Ginny enjoyed entertaining  
*continued on page 5*



*Ginny Wood enjoys a view of Mt. McKinley near Camp Denali.*

Photo courtesy of Roger Kaye

## Dinner With Ginny

*continued from page 4*

visitors from outside the state. When she was able to borrow a car, she drove people out to Fox to visit a woman musher and then stopped at the Creamer's Dairy for a chat with Charlie Creamer. Charlie patiently explained how he kept the cows in the barn all winter because of the cold and showed them the old Yukon stove in the delivery trucks that kept the milk from freezing. Ginny could see that for midwestern farmers, a visit to the dairy was the highlight of their trip north.

"We were lucky," she continues, moving on to the story of how the dairy came to be a refuge. In the mid-1960's the Creamers were older, and they owed a lot of money. Pam Am was bringing in fresh milk daily from Anchorage, and people preferred milk in cartons rather than glass bottles—so Charlie was struggling. When it came time to sell the dairy, they wanted to sell it in one piece, not break it up. That was a year before the pipeline, and no one had the contract then. Any later and "the pipeline people would have snapped it up." They needed a place to store all that pipe, and the dairy was conveniently located.

Through a grassroots effort, the Fairbanks community raised enough money to put a down payment on the farm. "Everybody was for it, the mayor, the garden club," Ginny explains. She shares the story of Mary Shields and how she helped raise money for the dairy. But first she digresses, "The first time I

saw Mary was in the (equinox) marathon, and she was running with an owl on her shoulder. Big owl." Mary had acquired the injured Great Horned Owl when she lived outside Alaska and brought it with her when she came North. Mary didn't have a car, so she walked everywhere and outfitted her dog Cabbage with a little pack.

Mary had the idea of making cakes to raise money for the dairy purchase. She got free boxes of cake mix from the little mom-and-pop grocer on the corner of College and University. Then she and Cabbage set out down College Road with the dog's pack full of cake mixes. Mary handed

them out to people, asking them to make a cake for a bake sale. Then Mary had the Camp Fire Girls sell the cakes in front of the store. "It was snowing and they were selling them out on the sidewalk. Finally the owner came out and said, "Why don't you sell them in here?" From such efforts money was raised for the down payment, allowing the state time to secure funds to complete the purchase.

Through the management of the fields, the area has continued to draw waterfowl each spring. Ginny remembers that the radio would announce when the ducks were back, and Susan Grace beams, "It

was the symbol of spring even back then!"

Thinking of spring, Ginny recalls how she, husband Woody, and Celia ran Camp Denali for a number of summers, flying into the back-country camp as early as possible. People traveled by train then, as the Parks Highway didn't open until near the end of their tenure at Camp Denali. They opened camp each year near the end of April and had guests until the end of August. Many were their adventures, and Ginny, Woody and Celia made some remarkable lifelong friends during those summers. But that's the topic of another dinner with Ginny.

## Winter Recreation at Creamer's Field

*continued from page 1*

volunteers groom the trails twice a week, weather permitting, and more often when it snows. These volunteers also roll the walking trails after heavy snows.

ASPA holds about a dozen events on the above mentioned trails. These events include training clinics, beginner skijor clinics and ski classes, an orienteering event, and skijor races. The Open North American Sled Dog Race includes these trails during their annual race, to be held this year on March 17-19.

Walkers, joggers and skiers use the trails throughout the winter months. Many people take advantage of the great central location and exercise during the short day-

light hours. On most days you can see cars parked at the bird viewing parking area where people eat their lunch with a wonderful view of the fields, moose, or people enjoying the trails.

Dog owners are particularly fond of the wide-open spaces that Creamer's Field provides in the winter and share the trails (leash required) with joggers, mushers, and skijorers.

Snow machines are allowed on the Refuge. Many of the snowmachiners are

courteous and aware of other trail users. Some are not, so be careful on the trails. Four-wheelers and bicycles are not allowed on the Refuge.

The hunter safety classes for bow and arrow also use the Refuge and hold a permit with Fish and Game.

If you have not been out on Creamer's Refuge in the winter, I encourage you to come out and enjoy the well-maintained trails, the beautiful scenery, birds, animals and sunshine!

To learn more about the Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association, visit the website:

[www.sleddog.org/skijor/](http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/)  
or call 907-457-5456

## Hairy Woodpecker – Puugtuyuli

By Frank Keim

I call them Harry and Harriet, and I see them during afternoon walks in the woods above my house. I often hear one of them yelp from behind a birch or aspen as it pecks at the bark for its favorite food—wood borers and bark beetles. The Hairy woodpecker is much shyer than its smaller cousins, the Downy and Three-toed woodpeckers. It doesn't usually allow close approach by humans, and dodges around the tree trunk to hide, or takes off in a graceful bounding flight.

Their Yupik name, I've been told, is Puugtuyuli, meaning "the one who is good at diving through the air and banging its head against something." It's the same Yupik name used for all the woodpeckers in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. They were given the common English name "hairy" because of their hairy appearance. Their scientific name, *Picoides villosus*, means basically the same thing, "woodpecker with shaggy plumage."

Sometimes I catch a glimpse of the bird striking its beak on the wood and holding it there. In this way, it detects, by feel, the vibration and location of its prey. It also listens intently for the sounds of insect jaws crunching wood on the inside of the bark.

I've noticed over the years that Harry and Harriet have a loose association during the onset of winter, but as the season progresses they forage more closely together. By midwinter they have paired up again in preparation for

nesting. This is accompanied by a courtship ritual of intense drumming by both sexes. The drumming is usually done during flight and involves beating the wings against the bird's flank to produce a long, loud rolling tattoo.

When warmer weather rolls around in late March, the pair excavates a nest in a dead or dying branch of a live aspen, birch or spruce tree. The male usually selects the nest site, and then does most of the work in hollowing out a nest cavity about a foot deep and located 5 to 60 feet above the ground. It takes the birds three weeks to do the digging and when they're finished they line the nest with a bed of fine wood chips.

Harriet lays four white eggs and shares duty with Harry in their incubation. She does daylight duty while her hubby does the night shift. The eggs hatch in two weeks and both parents cooperate in feeding the nestlings. Harry hunts farther away from the nest but brings back more food for the new family. Harriet forages nearby so she can be within hearing distance of her young.

They do this for about a month, until the brood is ready to take their first leap from the edge of the tree hole and begin fending for themselves. As the young are learning the art of flight, their parents help transition them into this more dangerous life by feeding them for a while. At the same time they show them how to forage for themselves.



*A Hairy Woodpecker perches outside its nest hole.*

Photo by Ken Whitten

Part of this learning process involves the use of their specialized tongue. Through a long evolutionary process, woodpeckers have acquired an exceptionally long tongue that wraps around the skull and is anchored at the base of their upper beak. They extend it into a hole in the tree bark and extract insects with a barb on the tip of their tongue. Sticky saliva helps them hold on to their prey as it is extracted from the hole. Interesting, eh?

### Winter Night

by Ray Hadley

Cold dark frosty night,  
Driving up a gravel road.  
Winter fireflies!

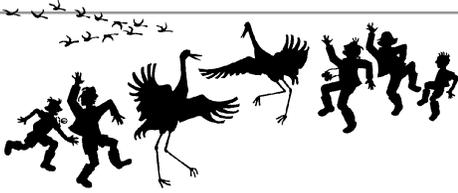
Flickering white lights,  
Ephemeral as this poem,  
Frosting on my life.

### Bird Count

by Ray Hadley

Chickadees, grosbeaks,  
Gray jays eating old pancakes,  
My morning pleasure.

Woodpecker drilling,  
Holes in the redwood siding.  
"Come in, door's unlocked."



# Camp Habitat Summer 2006

Nature Education Camp for youth ages 4-17

## Preschool Program (9:00 am–Noon)

Nature sprouts I (ages 4-5)	June 19-23	\$105
Nature Sprouts II (ages 4-5)	June 26-30	\$105

## Day Camp Program

Nature Detectives (ages 6-7)	July 24-28	\$175
Water Striders (ages 6-7)	July 17-21	\$175
Water Striders* (ages 8-9)	July 17-21	\$200
Refuge Adventurers* (ages 10-11)	July 10-14	\$200

\*includes one or two night campout

Registration forms and information are available online at [www.northern.org](http://www.northern.org) and at the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, 830 College Road, 452-5021.

## Backpacking Trips

Backpacking I (ages 12-13)	June 26-30	\$275
----------------------------	------------	-------

Two days at Creamer's Field; Wednesday-Friday on the trail in Wickersham Dome Area of the White Mountains.

Backpacking II (ages 13-15)	July 10-14	\$300
-----------------------------	------------	-------

One day at Creamer's Field; leave that night and camp at Granite Tors Campground. Tuesday-Friday on the Granite Tors Trail. Hike the entire trail this year!

Backpacking III (ages 15-17)	July 24-29	\$300
------------------------------	------------	-------

One day at Creamer's Field; Tuesday-Saturday on a new route in the Pinell Mountain area of the White Mountains.

## Membership Response Form

**Has your membership expired?** Please check the date in the corner of your mailing label. If your membership has expired, or is due to expire soon, this will be your last issue of *Field Notes* unless we receive your renewal prior to the next newsletter. Your membership dues support our many popular programs that school children, nature lovers, bird enthusiasts, and families enjoy throughout the year. Friends does not share or rent our mailing list.

_____ \$15 Students & Seniors	_____ \$75 Supporter	_____ \$500 Patron*
_____ \$20 Individual	_____ \$100 Contributor	_____ \$1000 Lifetime*
_____ \$40 Family	_____ \$250 Steward	_____ Donation \$_____

\*Patron and Lifetime members will receive a historic Randall Compton print of Creamer's Dairy signed by the Creamer family.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- This is a gift membership for the above name from \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a new mailing address, phone, or email.
- I would like to receive my newsletter electronically.

Friends of Creamer's Field  
PO Box 81065  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708  
907-452-5162 (office)  
907-459-7309 (Visitor's Center)  
email: [creamers@ptialaska.net](mailto:creamers@ptialaska.net)  
website: [www.creamersfield.org](http://www.creamersfield.org)

**I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me with information on how I can:**

_____ Become a Volunteer Naturalist	_____ Volunteer in the Visitor's Center
_____ Help with Events & Programs	_____ Help in the Vegetable Garden

# Events at Creamer's Field

## Owling Night

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 pm, Noel Wien Library  
Learn about Alaska's owls and view live birds!

## Spring Migration Celebration - Explore the Boreal Forest

Saturday, April 29, Noon - 4 pm  
Family fun with games, crafts, educational opportunities and more!  
Creamer's Field Farmhouse and Alaska Bird Observatory

## Mother's Day Frog Walk

Sunday, May 14, 10 am-Noon  
Learn how the frogs of interior Alaska defy the odds!  
Creamer's Field Farmhouse (bring boots for the frog walk)

## Wild Arts Walk

Saturday, June 3, 10 am-2 pm at Creamer's Field  
Stroll among area artists, musicians and crafts folk in a festive atmosphere! Sponsored by Design Alaska.  
\$15 fundraising event



## Sandhill Crane Festival August 18-20, 2006

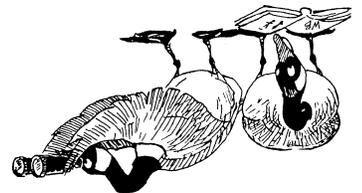
**Keynote speaker: Michael Forsberg,  
photographer and conservationist**

Michael Forsberg is widely recognized for his photographic work on sandhill cranes. *On Ancient Wings* is Michael's first book and the result of a five-year personal project on sandhill cranes. In addition to the Platte River in Nebraska, Michael has traveled to 13 locations and four countries on the North American continent to photograph cranes and their habitats, from the Alaskan tundra to the arid High Plains, and from Cuban nature preserves to suburban backyards.

Is it time to renew  
your membership?



Friends of Creamer's Field  
P.O. Box 81065  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708



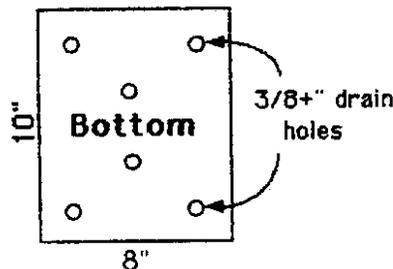
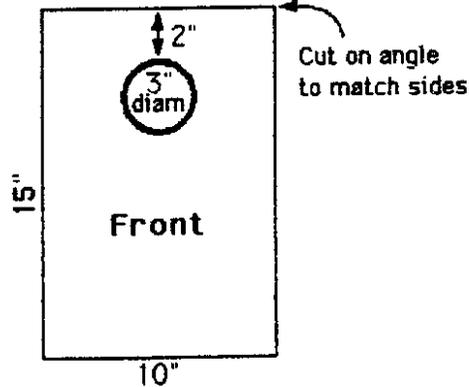
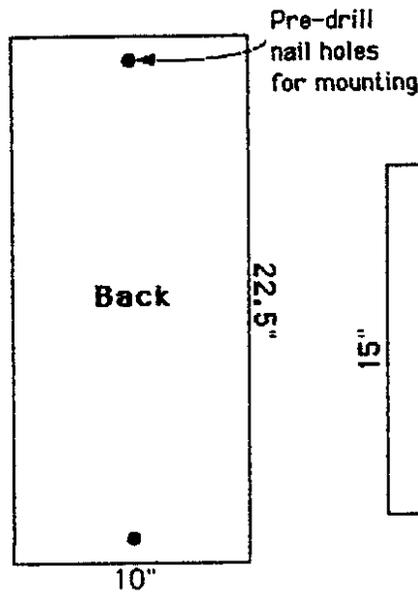
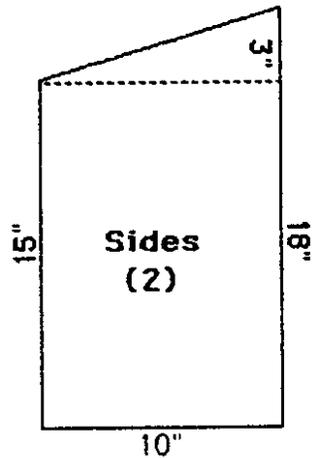
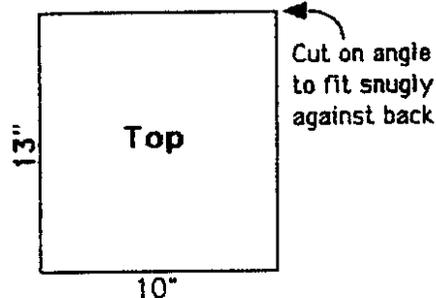
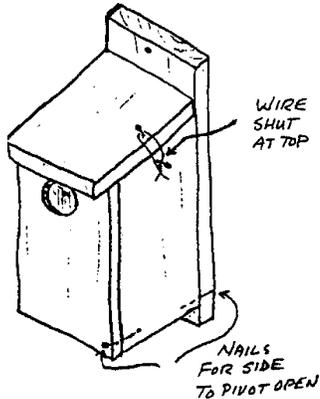


Be it ever so humble, there's no place like...

# a Nest Box from Creamer's Field

**If you're an owl that is.** The daylight period is rapidly increasing and with it the desire of male boreal owls to stake out a territory suited to spring. Listen now in wooded areas for the males calling a rapid staccato: "phoo, phoo, phoo, phoo, phoo, phoo, phoo, phoo" They're tooting to defend territories and attract a female owl for family life.

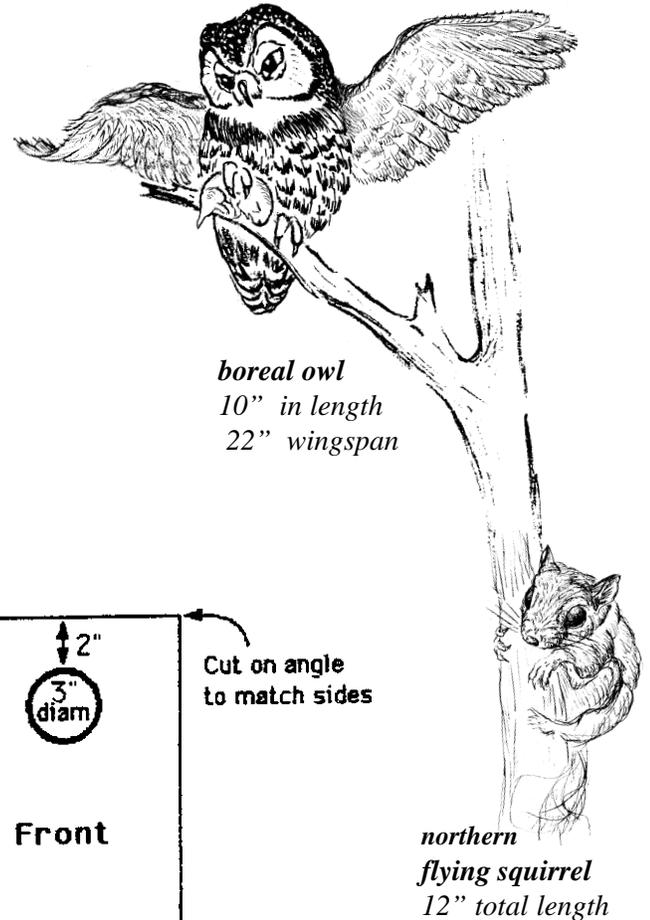
**Nest Boxes:** Boreal owl boxes are on sale at Creamer's Farmhouse; call 459-7307.



Place 3" of wood chips in bottom of box for nest material.

(rough cut) One 1" X 10" X 8'

Bottom	15"	18"	Back	Front	Top	Scrap
8"	Side	Side	22.5"	15"	13"	
	18"	15"				



*boreal owl*  
10" in length  
22" wingspan

*northern flying squirrel*  
12" total length

Select a tree close enough to check regularly. Mount box 10' to 25' high. When nesting season is over, clean box and refill with new nest material.

**Don't be surprised if other critters seek out your box.** Flying squirrels use cavities for daytime roosting and nesting. In early May, flickers and kestrels nest in tree cavities. If you're lucky, your box may house them after the earlier nesting owls or squirrels.

Cut on angle to match sides and back (~17°)



*boreal owl*

*Friends of Creamer's Field and Design Alaska Present:  
The 2006 first annual...*

## *Wild Arts Walk !*

Saturday June 3, 10am – 2 pm

*Wild Arts Walk* will be a walking tour with artists stationed along the Creamer's Field farm road and circling back to the farmhouse.

Artists may work on their craft in groups or individually.

Some tents will be available –reserve early!

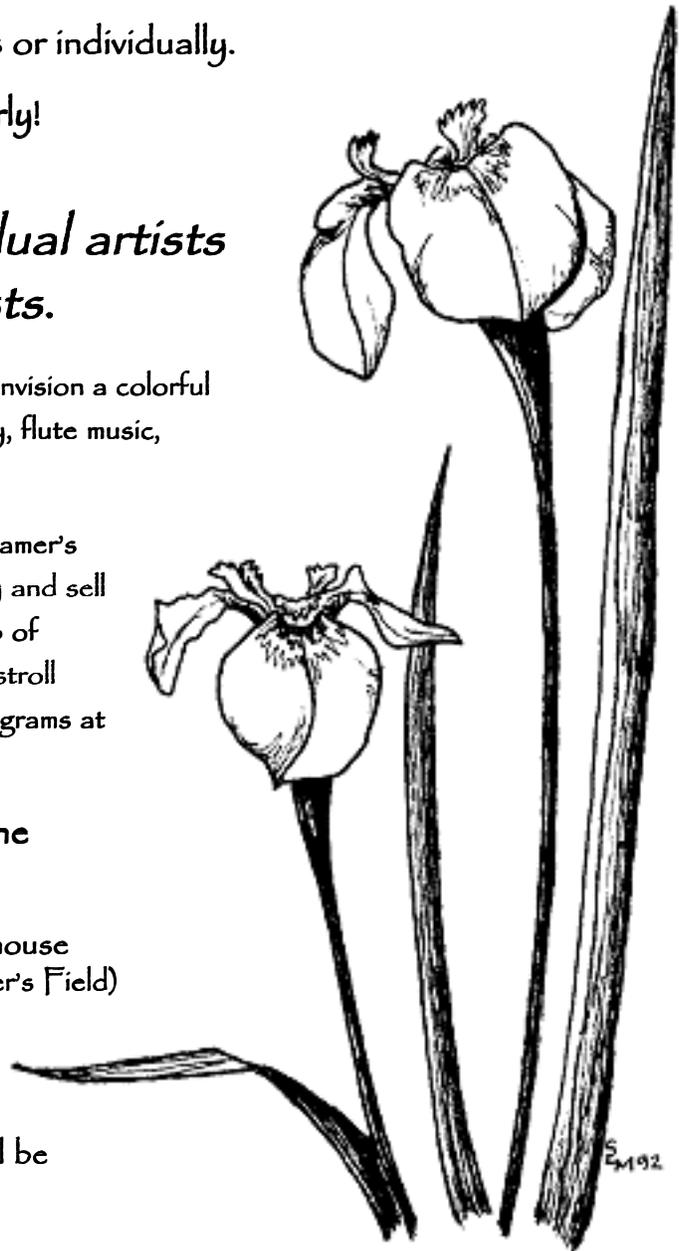
*We are looking for individual artists  
and groups of artists.*

Any art form with a nature theme is welcome. We envision a colorful blend of watercolor, pottery, basket making, poetry, flute music, photography, quilting, spinning, and guitar.

This event is both a fundraiser for Friends of Creamer's Field and an opportunity for area artists to display and sell their work. The public will purchase a souvenir cup of gourmet organic coffee and a pastry prior to their stroll among the artists, with proceeds funding family programs at Creamer's Field.

Participating artists will be featured in the following ways:

- ❖ Art for sale in a tent adjacent to the Farmhouse (20% of proceeds will go to Friends of Creamer's Field)
- ❖ Bios of artists and groups in the events program.
- ❖ A table for group and artists brochures will be provided



To participate, contact Friends of Creamer's Field at 452-5162 or [creamers@ptialaska.net](mailto:creamers@ptialaska.net)