



Birding in the Interior

Looking for birds in the Fairbanks Area? Here are some of the best places to go birding in Fairbanks:

Creamer's Field Migratory Water Fowl Refuge

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages this refuge located on College Road in Fairbanks. The refuge hosts a number of different waterfowl and other birds in the spring and fall. At Creamer's Field you will find a visitors center and nature trails that lead through the fields, wetlands, and boreal forest habitats. Among the attractions at the refuge is the Alaska Bird Observatory, a private non-profit organization which operates a seasonal banding station. **Birds:** Sandhill Cranes, geese, shorebirds and waterfowl during migration, songbirds in season and raptors.



Creamer's Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

University of Alaska Fairbanks Campus

There are three main bird-viewing areas on the UAF campus. The agricultural fields on the south side of campus provide a stop over site for migrating waterfowl, such as Canada Geese, Sandhill Cranes, and shorebirds. At UAF's West Ridge ski trail system, you may walk through boreal forest and wetlands, be aware that the trails may be quite wet in spring and early summer. If you take the trail to Smith Lake waterproof foot gear is recommended. **Birds:** A medley of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds will be nesting in the area. Look for Hammond's Flycatcher, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Lesser Yellowlegs and thrushes.



Black-capped Chickadee

Fairbanks International Airport Ponds:

A variety of ponds, dikes, and mudflats provide excellent habitat for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The front ponds are most accessible, but the gravel roads behind the airport, on University Ave. South or Old Airport Way lead to additional birding areas. **Birds:** Waterfowl, shorebirds, and passerines; sometimes thrushes and warblers in adjoining woods; gulls and terns on the south-east side by the river. Sometimes newly hatched ducklings can be seen.

Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest

About 17 miles west of UAF at milepost 339.9 on the Parks Highway you'll find this forest. The turnoff is the road on the left after you pass the viewpoint with the monument honoring George A. Parks. The gravel road descends through a mature white spruce forest and beginning at about 2 miles, through a past burned area. The Forest is within the Tanana Valley State Forest, a unit managed by the Division of Forestry, State of Alaska. **Birds:** Swainson's and Varied Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, Boreal Chickadee, Common Redpoll, Dark-eyed Junco, Three-toed and Black-backed woodpecker, Boreal Owl, and the Great-Horned Owl.

Chena Lakes Recreation Area

Located about 17 miles outside of Fairbanks, this 2,000 acre park includes a large lake, a nature trail, and parallels parts of the Chena River. It is operated by the Fairbanks North Star Borough. **Birds:** Migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Chena River State Recreation Area

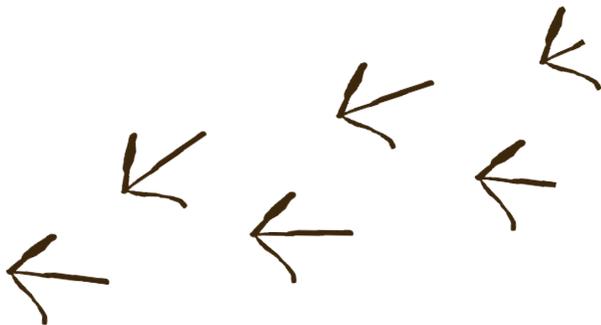
This recreation area runs from approximately mile 26 to mile 51 of Chena Hot Springs Road. The road is lined with aspen, birch, spruce forest, and dotted with various ponds and lakes and is highlighted by the Chena River and its tributaries. It is operated by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. **Birds:** Water Pipit, Bald Eagles Kingfishers Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, swallows, hawks, grouse, chickadees, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, and Hawk Owls.



Sandhill Crane

Steese Highway

Twelvemile Summit and Eagle Summit (*at milepost 85-86 and milepost 103-109 on the Steese Highway*) are good places to experience alpine tundra as well as find alpine specialists like Northern Wheatear, Surfbird, and Willow and Rock Ptarmigans. The weather can be very unpredictable. The trails and facilities are maintained by the Bureau of Land Management. **Birds:** Woodpeckers, Lapland Longspur, ptarmigan, grouse, Lesser Golden-Plover, Long-tailed Jaeger, Merlins, Northern Shrike, and Hawk Owl.



For More Information

Arctic Audubon Society's Birding Hotline:
(907) 451-9213

Creamer's Field Visitor Center:
(907) 452-5162

Look on this site for specific bird types:
<http://www.alaskabird.org/ABOBirdingReportsSp2007.html>