

Bird Watchers

Along about April, bird watchers can be seen popping up around Creamer's field sporting binoculars and field guides. Fairbanks is a stopover on the migration route for thousands of birds. Many of these birds nest in Alaska and then retreat from our severe winters to sunnier latitudes.

Among Tanana Valley Community College's (TVCC's) late start classes is one called "Birds of Interior Alaska." Instruction is divided into three main sections. First will be characteristics of birds in general, and then a study of interior Alaska's birds followed by three weeks of in-the-field bird watching. Classes begin February 19, 1975, and will be taught by Cyndie Warbelow.

Warbelow spent one summer in Nome, Alaska as a house guest of the Hahn family where she studied the Northern Phalarope for her PHD thesis.

The Northern Phalarope is a small shore bird. It spends most of its time swimming in the water, feeding on aquatic insects and larva. Unlike a lot of other birds the Phalarope female lays the eggs and the male incubates them.

Then the female plays it liberated attitude to the hilt and takes off to migrate to her home in South America leaving the male behind to feed and care for the young.

Phalaropes are just one of the over 130 species of birds common to interior Alaska.