



Birders Rendezvous ~ June 2, 3 & 4 ~ 2006

Rendezvous with the Birds!

Welcome to the 7th Annual Birders Rendezvous. Whether you're a beginner or experienced birder, or somewhere in between, we have something for you!

Join expert birders Al Batt, Ahlan Johnason, Ilka Milne, Gaea Crozier, Bob Smalley, Don Graves, Marshall Helmberger, Tim Terrell, Dee Kuder, Steve Windels and Lee Grim for a memorable field trip, as well as park rangers for, boat trips and special speaker programs.

Voyageurs National Park is home to over 240 species of birds. Here, the northern hardwoods meet the boreal forest and you will find some of the greatest diversity of breeding species and wood warblers north of Mexico.

Participants can join us for one activity, all day or an entire weekend. Hurry ~ space is limited. Programs fill as we receive registrations. Each activity provides a unique experience. Enjoy!



Design by John Snyder

~Keynote Speaker~ Al Batt



Bird Stories: What was it like when you saw your first pileated woodpecker or snowy owl?

Join keynote speaker **Al Batt** for an entertaining evening of snippets from a life gone to the birds. Al will intrigue you with stories about when he saw his first snowy owl, when he trained birds, witnessed squirrels at the bird feeder and much more. Come and reconnect with nature and how it can shape your life through laughter and humor.

Al has been featured in the *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Chicken Soup for the Soul Series*, *Minnesota Bird Watching* and *Writer's Digest*. Al travels the United States speaking at events and has written for the movies.

Voyageurs National Park was established by an act of Congress in 1971 to preserve, for the enjoyment of present and future generations, the outstanding scenery, geological conditions and waterway system which constituted a part of the historic route of the voyageurs who contributed significantly to the opening of the northwestern United States.

Bird Species Spotted at the 2003 & 2004 Rendezvous

*Alder Flycatcher	*Hermit Thrush
*American Bittern	*Herring Gull
*American Crow	*Hooded Merganser
*American Goldfinch	*Kill Deer
*American Redstart	*Least Flycatcher
*American Robin	*Magnolia Warbler
*American White Pelican	*Mallard
*Bald Eagle	*Marsh Wren
*Belted Kingfisher	*Mourning Warbler
*Black- and- white Warbler	*Nashville Warbler
*Blackburnian Warbler	*Northern Flicker
*Black- capped Chickadee	*Northern Oriole
*Black- throated Green Warbler	*Northern Parula
*Blue Jay	*Ovenbird
*Blue- headed Vireo	*Pileated Woodpecker
*Blue- winged Teal	*Pine Warbler
*Broad- winged Hawk	*Purple Finch
*Brown Creeper	*Red- breasted Nuthatch
*Brown- headed Cowbird	*Red- eyed Vireo
*Canada Goose	*Red- winged Blackbird
*Canada Warbler	*Ring- billed Gull
*Cape May Warbler	*Ring- necked Duck
*Cedar Waxwing	*Rose- breasted Grosbeak
*Chestnut- sided Warbler	*Ruby- crowned Kinglet
*Chipping Sparrow	*Ruby- throated Hummingbird
*Common Goldeneye	*Ruffed Grouse
*Common Grackle	*Song Sparrow
*Common Loon	*Spotted Sandpiper
*Common Merganser	*Swamp Sparrow
*Common Raven	*Tennessee Warbler
*Common Yellow- throat	*Tree Swallow
*Double- crested Cormorant	*Turkey Vulture
*Downy Woodpecker	*Veery
*Eastern Kingbird	*Warbling Vireo
*Eastern Phoebe	*Western Palm Warbler
*Eastern Wood- pewee	*White- breasted Nuthatch
*European Starling	*White- throated Sparrow
*Evening Grosbeak	*Winter Wren
*Gray Catbird	*Wood Duck
*Great Blue Heron	*Yellow Warbler
*Great Crested Flycatcher	*Yellow- bellied Sapsucker
*Hairy Woodpecker	*Yellow- rumped Warbler
	*Yellow- throated Vireo



Schedule of Events

~Friday, June 2, 2006~

Registration

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center, see registration insert page for more details

Check Box
(for your own records)

Birding Along the Shores of Black Bay

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Lee Grim & Ilka Milne

The Oberholtzer Trail skirts the Black Bay marshland where you can view American bitterns, northern parulas, ovenbirds, warblers, pileated woodpeckers and much more. Join park biologist Lee Grim and Ilka Milne, manager of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Northwest Ontario, for a bird walk around the marshes of Black Bay. Registration requested.

Free

Birders Social

7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Sponsored by the Friends of Voyageurs National Park.

Enjoy scrumptious desserts while getting to know fellow birders. Registration requested.

Free

Keynote Speaker ~ Al Batt - Bird Stories

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Al Batt - writer, storyteller, speaker and humorist.

Do you remember the first time you saw a squirrel, pileated woodpecker, or evening grosbeak? Did it make an impression on you?

It did for Al. Relive his "first times" in nature and learn to rediscover nature through laughter. Registration requested. *Sponsored in part by the International Falls, Ramier & Rainy Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau.*

Free

~Saturday, June 3, 2006~

Morning Activities

Birding at Black Bay

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Oberholtzer Trail ~ Ahlan Johnason

The Oberholtzer Trail skirts the Black Bay marshland, loops through a mixed deciduous and coniferous forest and elevates to a mature pine forest where brown creepers, ovenbirds, northern parula, golden winged and magnolia warblers, pileated woodpeckers and American bitterns have been observed sparing over breeding territories. You may see and hear the call of the common loon or view a flock of American white pelicans. Ahlan will teach you techniques and tips for spotting and hearing birds. The Oberholtzer Trail is handicap accessible the first 1/4 mile. Coffee provided. Minimum and maximum number of participants is 5 & 12. *For the beginning birder.*

Check Box
(for your own records)

\$12

Birding with Al & Steve

6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Tilson Creek Trail ~ Al Batt & Steve Windels

Join Keynote Speaker Al Batt and Park Biologist Steve Windels for a breathtaking hike on the Tilson Creek Trail. The trail winds through an upland habitat of rocky outcrops and down to lowland environments. Overviews of Tilson Bay are available with the opportunity to spot black-backed 3 toed woodpeckers and more than 15 species of warblers. Maximum number of participants is 12. Coffee Provided. *For the intermediate or advanced birder.*

\$12

Warbler & Rookery Watch

6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Echo Bay Trail ~ Lee Grim

Hike with Lee on the Echo Bay Trail where you will view an active great blue heron rookery. Here you will be able to see, hear and watch the herons in their nesting territories. The trail traverses by a large beaver flowage and through big pines with a mix of upland and lowland vegetation. You have the opportunity to view many different warblers such as, the northern parula warbler, a variety of flycatchers, and the northern waterthrush. Lee will help you make connections between species and their habitats. Coffee provided. Maximum number of participants is 12. *For the intermediate or advanced birder.*

\$12

Birding by Boat & Land

6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center/Locator Lake Trail ~ Gaea Crozier

Board the park's pontoon boat and traverse across the main body of Kabetogama Lake on the way to the Locator Lake Trailhead. Disembark and hike a portion of the Locator Lake Trail. This trail takes you up steep slopes to oaks and down to lowland hardwoods. You may have the opportunity to view orchids in bloom, a variety of warblers, woodpeckers, flycatchers and more. Maximum number of participants is 15. Coffee Provided. *For the intermediate or advanced birder.*

\$17

Birding on the Vermilion Gorge Trail

6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Crane Lake Ranger Station ~ Dee Kuder

Meet at the Crane Lake Ranger Station and hike the Vermilion River Gorge Trail. You will pass the river and rapids while viewing aquatic bird species associated with the rivers into Crane lake. Hike through the pine forests coupled with outcrops of Lac LaCroix granite.

View a variety of warblers and many forest breeding birds of the boreal forest. Coffee Provided. Maximum number of participants is 12.

For the beginning or intermediate birder.

\$12

More Saturday morning activities →

~Saturday, June 3, 2006~

Walking Tour

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Staff

Enjoy a leisurely walk around the grounds of the Rainy Lake Visitor Center and find out more about Minnesota's only National Park!

Check Box
(for your own records)

Free

Afternoon Activities

Lunch ~ Catered by Grandma's Pantry in Ranier

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Vegetarian meal: corn chowder soup, egg salad croissant sandwich, dessert and beverage. Non-Vegetarian meal: wild rice soup, turkey or ham croissant sandwich, dessert and beverage.

\$8

Bird Call Identification Class

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Gaea Crozier

Have you ever wondered what bird call you are hearing? Join Gaea to learn great techniques for identifying bird calls. *For the beginning or intermediate birder.* Maximum number of participants is 20.

\$12

Wild Edible Plant Hike

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Tawnya Schoewe

Have you always wondered which plants you can eat in the wild? Here is your chance to identify some of the edible plants in Voyageurs National Park. Join Tawnya for a gentle walk along the Oberholtzer Trail to learn which plants are edible or poisonous. Afterwards, join her in the kitchen to taste some favorites. Maximum number of participants is 20.

\$12

Birding Hot Spots & Habitats on Rainy Lake

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Chris Holbeck

Board a park boat and tour several birding locations on Rainy Lake. You will have the opportunity to observe a cormorant rookery, gull colony and possible waterfowl in wetland habitats. Learn about the effects of human pressures on breeding birds and the tolerance of some species to human presence. *For the beginning, intermediate or advanced birder.* Maximum number of participants is 6.

\$12

Evening Activities

Sunset Cruise

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center ~ National Park Service, Park Ranger

Join a park ranger for a sunset cruise on beautiful Kabetogama Lake. Enjoy a relaxing evening cruise through prime watchable wildlife areas and then stop for a 1/2 hour tour of Ellsworth Rock Gardens. Maximum number of participants is 20.

\$17

~Sunday, June 4, 2006~

Birding by Boat

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center ~ Don Graves

Board the park's pontoon boat and navigate through one of the park's most extensive marsh habitats, with its associated bird species to isolated islands on the main body of Kabetogama Lake. Along the way you may see hundreds of nesting double crested cormorants, herring gulls, and loafing American white pelicans. On Pine Island you can view a bald eagle nest and a ring billed gull colony. Coffee provided. Maximum number of participants is 20. *For the beginning, intermediate or advanced birder.*

Check Box
(for your own records)

\$17

Birding at Blind Ash Bay

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Blind Ash Bay Trail ~ Tim Terrell

Hike a portion of this trail starting at the Ash River Visitor Center. You may see merlins, phoebes, broad-winged hawks and a variety of warbler species while passing through reforested burned areas. View vistas of Kabetogama Lake while standing in mature red and white pine forests. Travel through a variety of upland and lowland forest communities. Coffee provided. Maximum number of participants is 12. *For the beginning or intermediate birder.*

\$12

Birding in the Bog

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., Voyageurs National Park and Orr Area Tourist Information Center ~ Marshall Helmberger

Voyageurs National Park and the Orr Tourist Information Center have partnered to bring you Birding in the Bog. Join Marshall for a sunrise walk along the boardwalk and learn about the birds of the boreal forest bog. Wheelchair accessible. Coffee provided. Maximum number of participants is 12. *For the beginner, intermediate or advanced birder.*

\$5

Birding on the Kabetogama Peninsula

6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Rainy Lake Visitor Center ~ Bob Smalley

Board a park boat and travel through the aquatic habitat of Black Bay Narrows to the Black Bay Beaver Pond trailhead. Hike the spine of rocky ridges which include oak and pine communities and areas of rock outcrop to an extensive beaver flowage. Observe species associated with the pond and forest communities surrounding it. Mature Pine forests enclose the pond on the north and south shores. Here you could hear and see blue headed vireos, hermit thrushes, American redstart, indigo buntings, olive sided flycatchers and blackburnian, mourning and parula warblers. Hear the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse. Coffee provided. Maximum number of participants is 6. *For the beginning or intermediate birder.*

\$12