



Seminar Descriptions

Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival

June 13-17, 2012

Wednesday, June 13

Title: "Choosing a Camera for Birders" Cameron Cox
(7pm - Teepee Room)

Thursday, June 14

Title: eBird: Where Birding, Science
and Conservation Meet Chris Wood



(4-5pm - Arrowwood NWR Visitor's Center)

You have probably been hearing a lot about eBird (www.ebird.org) lately; the website and online birding tool that is changing the face of modern birding. eBird is an internet-based checklist program built for birders by birders; the goal is to harness the power of both birding and science. It allows you to keep track of your bird records online and share them with the birding community, while making them available for science and conservation efforts. eBird allows birders to post sightings, keep life lists, and manage their personal records. With thousands of active participants submitting over 2 million records every month, eBird now has the capability of accurately depicting the fine-scale distribution and abundance of nearly every North American bird species. Unlike other bird-monitoring programs, eBird collects data year-round, allowing the mapping of seasonal distributions, migration corridors, and important stopover sites. Recently, eBird has gone "global," incorporating Google maps and current bird taxonomy from every country in the world. In addition to seeing how eBird can improve your skills as a birder, Chris will discuss ways the scientific and conservation communities use eBird data. Did we mention eBird is free?

Friday, June 15



Title: "Specialties of Central North Dakota."
Dave Lambeth (4-5pm Teepee Room)

Dave Lambeth has birded North Dakota for 35 years. An avid photographer, he will utilize his own photos as each species is discussed. The seminar will address status, distribution, habitat requirements, and life histories of birds that visitors to North Dakota most want to find such as the Baird's, Le Conte's and

Grasshopper Sparrows, Yellow Rails, and Sedge Wrens. Sound recordings will also be emphasized because hearing is the easiest way to detect our specialty sparrows and secretive rails. Some of these species are most vocal at night so night birding will be discussed.

Saturday, June 16



Title: The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds Julie Zickefoose

4:30-5:30pm - Teepee Room)

Theodore Roosevelt said that to truly know someone, you had to share a tent with them. If Julie Zickefoose can claim nothing else, she is intimately familiar with a number of different species of birds. In many cases, this is because she has cared for them when they are orphaned or injured. Her upcoming book is an illuminated memoir of a lifetime spent living with, healing and nurturing birds. In this illustrated talk, she will share the experience of being a mother to hummingbirds, chimney swifts, waxwings and bluebirds, among many others. The job is not in high demand—the dawn-to-dusk hours and monotony, with feedings every half-hour—rule out many applicants. But the rewards are rich. The reward is in understanding how a bird thinks, how it develops, and how it might react to any given situation. It's an understanding so deep that it goes beyond words. That empathy with wild birds is her pay for a job very few choose to take on. That, and the stories that come out of the experience—stories begging to be shared.

Check out Julie's article about the wonders of North Dakota: "North Dakota State of Mind" at: http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/travel/north_dakota.aspx



TITLE: An Evening with ... Al Batt

(8-9pm - Teepee Room)

Al Batt is a delightful humorist, storyteller, and birding enthusiast from Hartland, Minnesota. Al will appeal to everyone - avid birder or novice. His stories will tickle your funny bone. He has a "down-home" style that will bring back memories of your childhood and those wonderful times gone by.

Al Batt was born and raised on a farm near Hartland, where he lives with his wife Gail. He writes four weekly humor and nature columns for many newspapers, and has a regular radio show about nature on a number of radio stations. He writes several popular cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally and has written jokes for a former President of the United States. He has written for a number of magazines and books, including the *Chicken Soup For the Soul* series. He is also a contributing author of the book *Minnesota Bird Watching*.