



***Boreal Birding &  
Northern Landscapes Festival  
- Speaker & Program Descriptions***

June 3-6, 2010

North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN

- updated March 4, 2010

Spring is an explosion of life in the North! Discovering the birds, wildflowers, geology and more of this dynamic and rich northern landscape is the focus of this festival. The event is hosted by the North House Folk School with support from both event and lodging partners.

Participation in the festival is open to anyone interested in hands-on learning and curious about the dynamics of the northern landscape. Field-focused courses form the backbone of the event - please visit North House's web site to learn more. In addition, multiple evening and afternoon programs explore the biology, beauty and biodiversity of the North. Pre-registration is required for all courses - evening programs are open to the public. For additional information on the festival, please visit [www.northhouse.org](http://www.northhouse.org) or call 218-387-9762.

**Overview of Public Programs**

Thursday –

**Fall Migration on the North Shore of Lake Superior**

7pm at the USFS Gunflint Ranger District

Friday –

**Northern Landscapes: The Canadian Seven and Me**

7pm at Sivertsons Gallery

Saturday – ***Featured Program***

**Ravens: Adventures with the Wolf Birds**

7pm at North House (\$5 per person, festival students and NHFS members free)

Sunday –

**Bird Conservation in Minnesota – You Can Help!**

2pm at North House

**Detailed Descriptions**

**Fall Migration on the North Shore of Lake Superior**

**With Gerald Niemi**

Thursday - June 3, 2010, 7:00 PM

At USFS Gunflint Ranger Station (1.5 miles west of North House on Highway 61)

Minnesota's North Shore hosts one of the largest concentrations of migrating birds in North America – yet, until now, no systematic migration counts have been conducted along the shore beyond Duluth's Hawk Ridge. For the past two years, researchers Gerald Niemi, Heidi Seeland and Anna Peterson have been filling this void with a study of the North Shore's migrating birds. Dr. Niemi will discuss early results of the study and show how the understanding of migratory pathways will help avoid conflict as people look to the North Shore not only as an area for further development but as a source of wind energy. Dr. Niemi is Professor of Biology at University of Minnesota Duluth and a Senior Research Associate at the Natural Resources Research Institute.

## **Northern Landscapes: The Canadian Seven and Me**

### **- Finding One's Place in the Northwoods**

#### **With North Shore Artist Dave Gilsvik**

Friday - June 4, 2010, 7:00 PM

At Sivertson Gallery (in downtown Grand Marais)

Dave Gilsvik paints northern landscapes from Knife River to the end of the Gunflint and everywhere in-between. One of Birney Quick's last students at the Grand Marais Art Colony, Dave was no stranger to the northwoods. The son of an outdoor writer, Dave began sketching and painting in wild places including the Boundary Waters where he helped guide canoe trips for several summers. He attended art school at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the University of New Mexico. After many years in commercial art, Dave returned to painting the northwoods and doesn't plan to leave it anytime soon.

## **FEATURED PROGRAM**

### **Ravens: Adventures with the Wolf Birds**

#### **With Bernd Heinrich**

Saturday - June 5, 2010, 7:00 PM

At North House Folk School

The common raven is an uncommonly interesting and enigmatic bird that is distributed over most of the northern hemisphere. It is credited with great cleverness, playfulness and flight ability. And though known to specialize as a scavenger, it is also a generalist that lives in perhaps the greatest diversity of habitat of any bird. No other bird lives in hot deserts, Arctic tundra, temperate forest and in/on mountains and coastlines. The raven has likely been associated with humans since we became hunter-gatherers, and it is prominent in the folklore of many northern cultures. Yet, very little of its intimate life had been accessible for observation; it was almost unknown. The program will explore how a simple question arising from an everyday observation led to a series of studies yielding new insights into the ravens' biology, and how these studies have now placed the raven in the category of one of the brainiest birds in the world.

Bernd Heinrich has had a long interest in animals, having had pet jays, hawks, starlings, pigeons, crows, caterpillars and other critters before age eight. He studied biology as an undergraduate at the University of Maine in Orono, where he stayed to get a masters degree in cell biology. He got his PhD deciphering a new mechanism of body temperature regulation in insects, and for ten years worked on physiology and behavior in bumble- and honeybees in the Entomology Department at UC Berkeley, doing his field work near his home on the farm in Maine. In 1980, he returned home to New England with two pet ravens. Soon after, he started the raven study that continued for two decades. He is now a Professor Emeritus in Biology at the University of Vermont, and is a practicing writer.

## **Bird Conservation in Minnesota – You Can Help!**

### **With Bonnie Sample**

Sunday - June 6, 2010, 2:00 PM

At North House Folk School

Which birds are breeding where? A GREAT question – and in fact it's one of the questions the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas is working hard to answer. The goal of this 5-year, statewide project is to document all of Minnesota's breeding birds and where in the state they nest. This presentation will describe the project and how volunteer citizen scientists can contribute to this critical bird conservation project. It's fun, it's easy, and project participants will definitely learn more about Minnesota's breeding birds. Bonnie Sample is Coordinator of Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas project.