

Camps with Meaning 21st Annual Birding Retreat

Location: Camp Arnes

June 2nd - 4th 2023, 21st Birding Retreat

Welcome to the 21st Camps with Meaning Annual Birding Retreat, an important event for participants to experience God's creation with others who love bird watching.

Register online: <https://campswithmeaning.org/event/8406-2023-06-02-birding-retreat-2023>

Group Transportation Option

This year we have the option to ride in a 24-seat passenger bus, leaving Friday morning at 7:00 am from Fort Garry Mennonite Church, 7:30 am from Bethel Place, and gathering at CMU south parking lot at 8:00 am. Bring breakfast snack to share. Those taking their vehicles are invited to meet at CMU. Together we will explore the Interlake region for birds around the Shoal Lakes and Lake Winnipeg areas. Check-in at Camp Arnes is at 4:30 with supper to follow.

No Experience required.

A special invitation is extended to students and novice birders of all ages. For birding outings, participants will be in groups of 4-7 persons. Novice participants will be teamed up with more experienced birders.

Sleep Options-Safety and Comfort

Since there may be participants who require their own rooms, we will attempt to provide this space as lodging is available. Three optional accommodations are available:

1. Primary lodging in Poplar Grove: 3-4 per room. Bring your own bedding.
2. Motel style, double occupancy option in Cedar Lodge. Bedding provided. Additional cost (see below)
3. RV sites available.

Cost *(If you have financial concerns, please reach out to a committee members)*

- Early Bird (register by April 30/23) \$185
- Regular Rate (register by May 14/23) \$200

Additional options:

- Cedar Lodge: motel style room for two. \$30/pp extra
- Full Time Student \$100
- Children Under 12 FREE
- Bus (first 24 registered) \$85/pp (\$45/student)

Those traveling in cars, please provide your driver with fuel cost. We recommend \$0.10/km.

Meals are provided from Friday lunch through Sunday breakfast.

What to bring

- Binoculars and field guides
- Sleeping bag, pillow
- Towel, personal items
- Outdoor clothing, hats, boots, sunscreen etc.
- Re-usable water bottles and portable coffee/tea mugs
- Indoor shoes/slippers
- Spotting scopes
- Bug repellent or mosquito netting

For more Information please contact planning committee members:

- Gordon Janzen: gordonjanzen@gmail.com (204-478-1530)
- David Neufeld: sustain61@gmail.com (204-228-1338)
- Karis Penner: Karisrmt@mts.net (204-380-2808)
- Dieter Schonwetter: dieter.schonwetter@umanitoba.ca (204-230-1253)

2023 Birding Retreat Schedule June 2-4, 2023. Camp Arnes

FRIDAY

7:00 am Meet at Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship: load bus.

7:30 am Meet at Bethel Place: load bus.

8:00 am Meet at Canadian Mennonite University south parking lot near MCM office: load bus.

- Meet other participants driving own cars.
- Welcome, introductions.
- Directions for birding day tour.

8:30 am – 4:30pm: Interlake Birding: Bus and car caravans

- Tour along Shoal Lakes and Interlake areas.
- A BBQ lunch will be provided and a suggested donation of \$15 will be invited.

4:30 Arrive at Camp Arnes: Registration & room assignment.

6:00 pm Supper

7:30 pm Presentation:

- Orientation & introductions.
- Photography presentations: Walker Giesbrecht, Robb Nickel

9:30 Snack and optional activities

- Birding for Novice Birders, Birding for Experienced Birders, Night Birding / Night sounds.

SATURDAY

6:30 Coffee and birding around camp.

7:00 Breakfast

8:00 am to 3:00 pm Bus and cars to Hecla Island with bag lunch.

3 – 5 pm Optional activities

- “Big Sit” at Camp Arnes.
- Camp Arnes trails.

5:30 pm Supper

7:00 Presentation by Jim Duncan; Owl expert, photographer, naturalist, and teacher.

9:00 Snack and Night birding.

SUNDAY

6:30 Coffee – birding around Camp.

7:00 Breakfast

8:00 Consolidate bird lists

9:30 Closing Worship service

10:30 Wrap-up

- Clean rooms.
- (Retreat Evaluation to follow).

11:00 Departure: Optional birding on way home

- Bus returning via Oak Hammock Marsh.
- Purchase lunch (Gimli or Winnipeg Beach).

3:00-4:00 pm Bus returns to CMU, Bethel Place, FGMF