

SPRING TRANSITION

OED 289 4 Credits – April 30 – May 18, 2012

Course Fee: \$999

*Investigate and Identify Spring Flora & Migratory Birds
Observe and compare the natural history of spring by latitude and time:
Backpacking, Paddling and Biking Wisconsin and Minnesota*

This 3-week field course offering through the **Audubon Center of the North Woods** and **Northland College** will be spent hiking, paddling and biking portions of Wisconsin and Minnesota, investigating the emergence of spring through the flora and birds of the areas, as well as how the geology underfoot impacts the life forms above ground. Students of the course will visit a variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, identifying the characteristics of each. The three week course will be a combination of off-site trips in southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin, and day trips based out of the Audubon Center of the North Woods in east-central Minnesota. Students will gain experience with the use of dichotomous keys for flower and tree ID, bird identification and field markings, and outdoor skills including river paddling, biking, camping and trip organization. Students will be camping out for the 3 weeks at various locations, including the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

OUTCOMES: Through this course students will:

- Identify and be able to explain the variables that affect spring in the geographic areas visited.
- Apply knowledge learned of geology, geography, biology, elevation, latitude and time of year to explain how these factors determine the animal and plant species present at each area.
- Learn research techniques of surveying, journaling, observations, transects and others for comparative analysis of vegetative and animal communities.
- Gain a proficiency in the adventure skills of river canoeing, backpacking, and biking.



HIKE trails in MN & WI
State Parks and Forests!



PADDLE Mississippi, St. Croix,
Kettle Rivers and others!



BIKE trails intersecting diverse
habitats through WI & MN!