

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!



## NORTHWEST BIRDING FESTIVAL

Annual birding festival held in one of the Pacific Northwest's premier bird viewing areas.

The annual multi-day birding festival, held mid-March celebrates the incredible variety of migratory birds that flock to the coastal waters of Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay and Semiahmoo Bay at the northwest corner of Washington state.

The festival provides free activities both indoor and outdoor for the entire family including:

- live raptor presentations
- wildlife exhibits and displays
- kids' activities
- photography workshops
- expert speaker presentations
- guided field trips and more

For complete details on the festival, visit: [wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com](http://wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com)



Guided fieldtrips.

Long-tailed Ducks are one of the deepest diving ducks, diving up to 200 feet to forage for food. They also spend more time under water relative to their time on the surface. They are often seen during the winter in the deep water between Blaine Pier and Semiahmoo Spit.

PHOTO: Joe Meche



Wings Over Water All-day Birding Expo.



Kids' activities.

## Birdwatching Ethics

These sheltered waters and tidelands are an important resting and foraging stop for birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway. With the area becoming increasingly popular with birders and other visitors, it is essential that the birds and their habitat are protected by following a few rules that apply to the birds as well as other wildlife.

- Respect private property and stay on established routes.
- Do not disturb or pick up any birds, especially young birds.
- No camping or parking except in designated areas.
- Keep dogs on a leash, unless in specified off-leash areas; take time to pick up dog waste; and do not allow your dog to chase birds.
- Resist the urge to feed birds. They do quite well on their own.
- Keep your distance from birds while you observe and photograph them.

## Birding Resources

North Cascades Audubon Society  
[northcascadesaudubon.org](http://northcascadesaudubon.org)

Washington Brant Foundation  
[wabrant.org](http://wabrant.org)

Wings Over Water  
NW Birding Festival  
[wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com](http://wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com)

Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
[allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

Audubon Washington  
[wa.audubon.org/birds](http://wa.audubon.org/birds)

eBird Whatcom County Hotspots  
[bitly.com/whatcom-ebird](http://bitly.com/whatcom-ebird)



Live raptor demonstrations by Sardis Raptor Center.

PHOTO: Chuck Kinzer



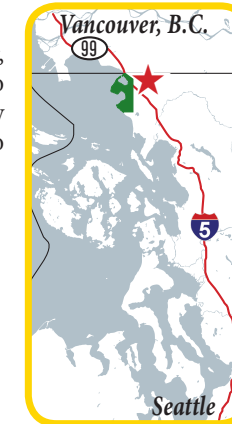
Kayaking the shoreline by Semiahmoo Resort-Golf-Spa in Blaine.

PHOTO: Eric Ellingson

## Come visit us!

Located between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., Blaine, Birch Bay and Semiahmoo offer spectacular scenery and a variety of recreational activities. In addition to birdwatching the area offers:

- crabbing
- clamming
- beachcombing
- kayaking
- shoreline walks
- cycling along trails
- waterfront parks & playgrounds
- year-round festivals



Blaine, Birch Bay and Semiahmoo offer a variety of accommodations. From a 4-star resort, charming bed and breakfast, cozy cabins, RV camping and campground sites. You're sure to find your fit. Explore shops and enjoy a variety of eateries with delicious entrées from both land and sea.

## For more information contact:

**Blaine Welcome Center**  
546 Peace Portal Drive, Blaine  
360-332-4544 1-800-624-3555  
[blainechamber.com](http://blainechamber.com)

**Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce**  
7900 Birch Bay Drive, Birch Bay  
360-371-5004  
[birchbaychamber.com](http://birchbaychamber.com)

## Directions:

**From Canada:** Take I-5 exit 276, the first exit immediately after the Peace Arch border crossing.

**From Seattle/Bellingham:** Northbound I-5 take exits 274, 275 or 276.

**To Birch Bay:** From I-5 heading north or south take exit 270. From Blaine follow Peace Portal Drive south as shown on the inside Best Bird Viewing Area map.

**To Semiahmoo:** From I-5 take exit 276 or 270, follow signs.

BROCHURE FUNDING PROVIDED BY  CITY OF BLAINE

# NORTHWEST BIRDING

BLAINE, BIRCH BAY, SEMIAHMOO

*A major stopover on the Pacific Flyway!*



PHOTO: Eric Ellingson

*An Important Birding Area (IBA) located between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., and is the anchor for the North Cascades Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail.*

For more information visit:  
[wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com](http://wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com)

# The Birds

Some of the finest birdwatching in the country can be found here in the northwest corner of Washington state.



The immense estuarine environments from Semiahmoo Bay to Birch Bay are home to some of the largest concentrations of wintering waterfowl on the Pacific Coast. Birdwatchers congregate here, to enjoy the spectacle of the active, massed flocks of numerous species.

These protected coastal areas extending from Birch Bay to Semiahmoo are integral parts of the Great Washington State Birding Trail. The area of Drayton Harbor/Semiahmoo Bay is one of 75 Important Bird Areas in the state. The sheer number of birds and the many species that utilize these inland waters is spectacular, especially from late fall through spring.

*One of the unique features of this area is the opportunity to experience a variety of birds close at hand.*

Over 250 species of birds can be found in the surrounding marine, upland, and open meadows. The open waters of Semiahmoo Bay have some of the heaviest concentrations of waterfowl. Numerous birds can be seen diving for herring that spawn in these local waters in late winter and early spring.

Many birds that breed in the northern latitudes congregate in the expansive, bird-friendly habitats of northwestern Washington state. The rich tapestry of birdlife in this area attracts birdwatchers from all over the country and, while winter birding is best, spectacular birds are here year-round.

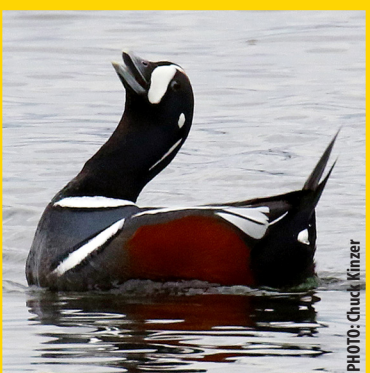
PHOTO: Eric Ellingson

“ I just set up my tripod, sit on the beach and wait for the birds to come to me. ”

-Joe Meche  
Wings Over Water featured speaker



**COMMON GOLDENEYE**  
Goldeneyes breed in the boreal forests of Canada and Alaska where they nest in tree cavities. They are visitors each winter to our protected coastal waters.



**HARLEQUIN DUCK**  
The Harlequin rivals the Wood Duck as the most colorful of waterfowl. They nest on rushing mountain streams and spend the rest of the year on rocky salt water shorelines.



**BRANT**  
This small goose that is about the size of a common Mallard stages one of the most spectacular migrations of all waterfowl. The largest concentration of brant occur here between February and May.



**DUNLIN**  
The most numerous of the wintering shorebirds in the area, Dunlin flocks can number in the thousands and provide birdwatchers with delightful displays of aerobatics as they sweep onto the flats to feed and elude the ever-present Peregrine Falcons.



**GREAT BLUE HERON**  
This large wading bird is a year-round resident of Whatcom County and, with several large rookeries in the area, the shallows can often be filled with these magnificent, efficient fishers.  
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Birch Bay, Great Blue Heron colony is one of the largest on the West Coast with over 300 nesting pairs.



**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**  
This member of the colorful merganser family is one of the more spectacular diving birds to be found in the deep water channels between Blaine and Semiahmoo.



**BLACK OYSTERCATCHER**  
Oystercatchers are easy to identify due to their large black body and long, bright orange bill. They are often seen along our rocky shorelines and beaches.

More than **250 species of birds** can be found in the marine, upland and open meadow habitats between Blaine, Birch Bay and Semiahmoo!