

**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 festival, held each spring since 2003, celebrates the incredible variety of migratory birds that flock to the coastal waters of Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay, and Semiahmoo Bay in the northwest corner of Washington State.

The festival provides free activities, both indoor and outdoor, for the entire family. Festival activities include:

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

For complete details about the festival:

[www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com](http://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com)



*Guided field trips.*

PHOTO: Debbie Harger



*Wings Over Water All-day Birding Expo.*



*Kids' activities.*

PHOTOS: Chuck Kinzer

**Birdwatching Ethics**

With more and more people coming to observe birds, it is essential that a few rules and regulations be observed to ensure that the birds in the area have ample sites for resting and feeding. The only rules that apply are common courtesies and considerations that apply to other humans, as well as wildlife.

- Respect private property and stay on established routes.
- Do not disturb or pick up any 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 feces; and do NOT allow your dog to chase birds.
- Resist the urge to feed birds. They do quite well on their own.

**Birding Resources**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| North Cascades Audubon Society<br>northcascadesaudubon.org                   | Washington Brant Foundation<br>wabrant.org                           |
| Wings Over Water<br>NW Birding Festival<br>wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com | Cornell Lab of Ornithology ~<br>All about Birds<br>allaboutbirds.org |
| Audubon Washington<br>wa.audubon.org/birds                                   | eBird<br>ebird.org   |



*Sardis Raptor Center - Live Raptor Demonstrations.*

PHOTO: Chuck Kinzer



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

PHOTO: Eric Ellingson

**Come visit us!**

Blaine, Birch Bay, and Semiahmoo are located just 20 minutes north of Bellingham in the northwest corner of Washington State. Nestled along the Salish Sea, the area offers a spectacular setting for various recreational activities for the whole family!



In addition to birding enjoy:

- Crabbing
- Clamming
- Fishing
- Beachcombing
- Kayaking
- Shoreline and Forest Trails
- Waterfront parks & playgrounds
- Cycling
- Year-round festivals & events
- Golf
- Boating- Full-service Harbor & Marina's

Blaine, Birch Bay, and Semiahmoo offer a variety of accommodations to suit your comfort level and budget, including a 4-star seaside resort, charming bed & breakfast and cozy cabin rentals, and RV and camping sites. Explore unique shops and enjoy an array of eateries with delicious entrées from both land and sea for an authentic Pacific Northwest experience.

**For more information and directions:**

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

**Birch Bay Visitor Center & Chamber of Commerce**  
4819 Alderson Rd. Unit 103, Blaine, WA  
PH: 360-371-5004  
[www.birchbaychamber.com](http://www.birchbaychamber.com)



BLAINE-BIRCH BAY  
PARK & RECREATION  
DISTRICT 2

2022 BROCHURE REPRINT FUNDING  
PROVIDED BY A GRANT FROM:

Blaine-Birch Bay Parks & Recreation District 2  
[www.bbbparkandrec.org](http://www.bbbparkandrec.org)

**NORTHWEST BIRDING**

**BLAINE, BIRCH BAY, SEMIAHMOO**

*A major stopover on the Pacific Flyway!*



PHOTO: Ruth Lauman

*Located between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., designated as an Important Birding Area (IBA) and the anchor for the North Cascades Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail.*

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

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

PHOTO: Joe Meche

# The Birds

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



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

These protected embayments, extending from Birch Bay to Semiahmoo Bay are integral to the Audubon Washington's State Great Birding Trail. The area of Drayton Harbor/Semiahmoo Bay is one of 75 Important Bird Areas in the state. The number of birds and the many species that utilize these inland waters can be spectacular, especially during migration 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.*

This region's maritime, upland, and open grassland habitats are home to more than 250 species of birds. 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.



**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.



**BLACK BRANT**

This small goose, about the size of a common Mallard, stages one of the most spectacular migrations of all waterfowl. The largest concentration of Brant occurs here between February and May.



**DUNLIN**

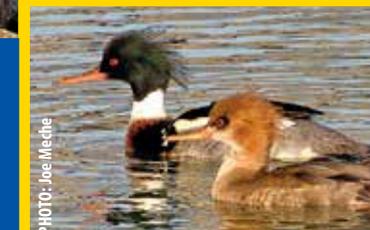
The most numerous of the wintering shorebirds in the area, Dunlin flocks can number in the thousands and provide birdwatchers with delightful displays of aerobatics as they sweep onto the flats to feed and elude the ever-present Peregrine Falcons.



**GREAT BLUE HERON**

This large wading bird is a year-round resident of Whatcom County. The shallows are often filled with these magnificent, efficient fishers with several large rookeries in the area.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Birch Bay Great Blue Heron colony is one of the largest on the West Coast.



**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**

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



**OYSTER CATCHER**

Black Oyster Catchers 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.

*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



PHOTO: Eric Ellingson

PHOTO: Eric Ellingson

PHOTO: Joe Meche

PHOTO: Chuck Kinzer

PHOTO: Joe Meche

PHOTO: Joe Meche

PHOTO: Joe Meche

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