

BIRDING FESTIVALS

Bird festivals are an enjoyable way to travel to new places, see new birds, make new friends, and just get away from it all. Most festivals are well-organized, usually with guided field trips and presentations by experts in various subjects. Participation at bird festivals supports birding and habitat conservation in the local areas where they are held. There are numerous bird festivals in Washington and the adjoining states: here are the ones we know about.

February

February 17-19, 2012. Winter Wings Festival. Klamath Falls, Oregon. Begun as the Klamath Falls Eagle Conference over 30 years ago, this is the longest-running festival in the United States. Naturalist, birder, and author Kenn Kaufmann and international photographer Darrell Gulin will be the keynote speakers. <http://www.winterwingsfest.org>

February 25-26, 2012. Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival, Stanwood Washington. Guided tours, self-guided tours, keynote speakers, and thousands of Snow Geese. Online registration begins February 4. <http://www.snowgoosefest.org/Home.html>

March

March 17, 2012. Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival. Blaine, Washington. <http://www.blainechamber.com/wow/>

March 23-25, 2012. Othello Sandhill Crane Festival. Othello, Washington. The premier wildlife festival in eastern Washington! Includes tours for Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing Owls, and other early-arriving migrants. Tours of regional historical and geological interest are also available. On Saturday, at the Othello High School, regional experts present 1-hour lectures during the day, and a vendor and educational fair is held in the school gym. Check the website for the festival brochure, which will be posted soon. <http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

March 30-April 1, 2012. Olympic BirdFest. Sequim, Washington. This festival specializes in seabirds and features tours of bays and coastlines, along with and a 3-hour boat cruise around Protection Island. www.olympicbirdfest.org

April

April 13-15, 2012. Birding and Blues Festival. Pacific City, Oregon. <http://birdingandblues.com/>

April 12-15, 2012. John Scharff Migratory Bird Festival. Burns, Oregon. Numerous tours are conducted during the day, ranging from beginning to advanced birding. Keynote Speaker is Paul Bannick, who will present "Owls and Woodpeckers of the West: A Visual Feast" based on his book *The Owl and the Woodpecker*. <http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/index.html>

April 27-28, 2012. Dubois Grouse Days. Dubois, Idaho. Featured the Greater Sage-Grouse of eastern Idaho. <http://www.grousedays.org/>

May

May 4-6, 2012. Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival. Hoquiam, Washington. This is good place to see Red Knots, whose Pacific populations are not as threatened as the Atlantic Coast flyway birds. Richard Crossley is the keynote speaker this year. www.shorebirdfestival.com/

May 17-20, 2012. Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival. Leavenworth, Washington. May 17-20, 2012. www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/

May 18-20, 2012. Tualatin River Bird Festival. Sherwood, Oregon.
<http://tualatinriverbirdfestival.org>

June

June 8-10, 2012. Wings Across the Big Sky Bird Festival. Kalispell, Montana.
<http://www.mtaudubon.org/birdwatching/festival.html>

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