

# Washington Birder - 2024 Big Day Reports

## 2024 County Big Days

01 January 2024 – Benton County  
06 January 2024 – King County  
04 May 2024 – Douglas County  
13 May 2024 – Benton County  
19 May 2024 – Klickitat County  
27 May 2024 – Spokane County

### 01 January 2024

#### BENTON County

4:00am – 4:00pm

Species Total: 79

Team: Rowan Young-McMurchie (79)

Traveled: 42 miles by car, 3.5 miles on foot

Visiting: W.E. Johnson Park, Chamna Natural Preserve, Buckskin Golf Course, North Richland, Leslie Groves Park/Nelson Island, Yakima River Delta, Columbia Park, Clover Island, Two Rivers Park, Toothaker HMU — Riek Rd

#### Species of Note:

Stake out: Eurasian Wigeon

Rare/Unusual: Red-breasted Merganser, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Grosbeak

Narrative: New Year's Day county big day.

### 06 January 2024

#### KING County

5:15am – 7:45pm

Species Total: 98/98 (Team/Shared)

Team: Matt Dufort (98), Spencer Hildie (98), Dave Slager (98)

Traveled: 110 miles by car, 10.2 miles on foot

Visiting: Discovery Park, Montlake Fill, West Seattle, Snoqualmie Valley

### 04 May 2024

#### DOUGLAS County

5:15am – 9:45pm

Species Total: 128/127 (Team/Shared)

Team: Neil Paprocki (128), Joe Veverka (127), Tucker Jonas (128)

Traveled: 150 miles by car, 3 miles on foot

Visiting: Dyer Hill area, Packwood Cemetary, Central Ferry Canyon, Bridgeport Bar, Waterville Plateau, Atkins Lake, Jameson Lake, Moses Coulee, Badger Mountain

#### Species of Note:

Vagrant: Franklin's Gull, Hudsonian Godwit

Rare/Unusual: White-throated Sparrow, White-winged Scoter

Late: Rough-legged Hawk

Missed: Canyon Wren, Sage Thrasher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco

#### Narrative:

We didn't plan this out much, just went out with the idea of seeing as many species as possible and hit some areas we hadn't birded much or had never been to. We ended up doing much better than anticipated! Bird of the day, initially, was a brief view of a Franklin's Gull flying up river near Bridgeport that we were not able to relocate. Then after a slower afternoon of driving around searching various small lakes and ponds for shorebirds without much luck, we stumbled upon a Hudsonian Godwit at Atkins Lake. A Peregrine Falcon flushed it up and it flew off shortly after we arrived, but all got great looks. We ended at Badger Mountain with an hour or so of light to spare. There was a lot more to find in that area, and this number could definitely be topped with a little more route planning and scouting.

13 May 2024

**BENTON County**

2:31am – 9:00pm

**Species Total: 112/108 (Team/Shared)**

**Team:** Christopher Lindsey (110), Jef Blake (109), Laurie Ness (110)

**Traveled:** 135 miles by car, 9.5 miles on foot

**Visiting:** Rattlesnake Mt - South Slope, Old Inland Empire Highway Cliffs, Horn Rapids, Snively Rd., Leslie Groves, Inland Asphalt Ponds, Bateman Island, Columbia Park, Duffy's Pond

19 May 2024

**KLICKITAT County**

3:00am – 8:20pm

**Species Total: 156/156 (Team/Shared)**

**Team:** Samuel Holman (156), Jacob Miller (156), Jonathan Lockwood (156)

**Traveled:** 152 miles by car, 7.1 miles on foot

**Visiting:** Conboy Lake NWR, Trout Lake NAP, Bingen Pond, Lyle, Wahkiacus, Goldendale sewage ponds, Alderdale, Bickleton.

**Species of Note:**

**Missed:** Northern Pintail, Sooty Grouse, Western Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Barred Owl, Western Screech-Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hutton's Vireo, Purple Martin, Canyon Wren, Hermit Warbler

**Narrative:**

Very windy conditions from predawn until dusk, with only two hours of calm in the early morning. Started with a productive early morning in the Glenwood Valley before heading to Trout Lake and down to the Columbia. Worked our way to Lyle and up the Klickitat Canyon to Goldendale, then onto the east end of the county including Alderdale and Bickleton. Fought windy conditions nearly the entire day, which made hearing owls and dickie birds alike very difficult. Despite the challenge of the wind, we managed to do fairly well on most things, with only a handful of significant misses.

27 May 2024

**SPOKANE County**

12:00am – 11:59pm

**Species Total: 153/152 (Team/Shared)**

**Team:** Luke Thomas (152) Andrew Thomas (153)

**Traveled:** 397 miles by car, 2.9 miles on foot, 1 mile by canoe, 17.7 miles by bike

**Visiting:** Stevens Creek NA, James T. Slavin Conservation Area, Turnbull NWR, Hog Lake (Spokane Co.), West Plains Area--N Coulee-Hite Rd and vicinity, Little Spokane River NA--Indian Painted Rocks, St. George's Kayak Launch, Mt. Spokane SP--Summit Trails/CCC Cabin, Mt. Spokane Foothills--Madison/Holcomb Roads, N Muzzy Rd swamp, Saltese--Church Pond, Pine Bluff State Land - Private Access, Eloika Lake

**Species of Note:**

**Stake Out:** Lewis's Woodpecker

**Rare/Unusual:** Sandhill Crane, Flammulated Owl, Canada Jay, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Clay-colored Sparrow,

**Late:** Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Sharp-shinned Hawk

**Early:** Common Nighthawk,

**Narrative:**

New Spokane County record.

Somehow missed White-crowned Sparrow while on Mt. Spokane. Lots of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch for late May!

Luke Thomas missed hearing a Northern-Pygmy Owl (which was decided not to count out of caution) & barely saw the unidentified species that help break the big day record, Tern sp. (Common/Foresters/Caspian)

**Washington State and County BIG DAY RECORDS by month (2024 update)**

month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
highest single county big day by month	110	116	121	143	208	157	136	127	121	113	104	102
State					208		136				104	
Adams												
Asotin	62	56			110		98	102		61		
Benton	79				112				109			
Chelan					121							
Clallam				126						104		
Clark	78	102								79		
Columbia		43				101				67	57	50
Cowlitz					97							
Douglas			74		128							
Ferry			61	61	86	89				39		
Franklin				65	104		90				76	64
Garfield											56	
Grant												61
Grays Harbor		107	96	110	162		68	85				98
Island	98	99	106	110	132	95	89	98	94	102	100	93
Jefferson											64	
King	98			111	137							102
Kitsap	110	112									104	102
Kittitas						155						
Klickitat					156	114						
Lewis					109		67	65			78	
Lincoln	62			113	124						70	66
Mason	84	84	102	104	118	105	98	91		65	77	93
Okanogan					121							
Pacific	71						81	71				73
Pend Oreille		60			133	147	106	127		74	55	
Pierce	88	94	102	107	137	104	82	61	71	78	90	84
San Juan					118	99				94		
Skagit	98	116	115	105	146	118	77	103	101	101	101	95
Skamania	69	66	70	77	68	73	86	76	80	76	78	81
Snohomish					138							64
Spokane	62	72	80	121	153	152					80	66
Stevens				100								
Thurston				84			81	78				
Wahkiakum	73	74			121							85
Walla Walla							136					
Whatcom		89		106					72			
Whitman	45	65		96	128			103		88		
Yakima					161							