

17th of September 2011, Stockholm

PRESS RELEASE

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL HULA VALLEY BIRD FESTIVAL

The First International Hula Valley Bird Festival is scheduled for November 20th–27th 2011, offering various comprehensive birding programs, a unique photography seminar, a scientific conference, a one-of-a-kind concert by seven-time Grammy award winner Paul Winter and more. The Hula Festival will highlight the magnificent Hula Valley and northern Israel, which feature some of the most incredible birding destinations on Earth.

The Hula Valley is at its best in late autumn as thousands of Common Cranes and Pelicans are present as well as over 25 species of raptors. In addition, spotters may get the rare and sought after opportunity to view species such as the Greater Spotted and E. Imperial Eagles, Pallid Harrier and more. Local species such as the Black Francolin, Pygmy Cormorant and three species of Kingfishers offer extraordinary viewing and photo opportunities.

Special events taking place throughout the festival include a scientific conference, "A Bird's Eye View of Migration and Stopover Sites - Flyway Conservation through Science, Policy, Education and Tourism," a special concert by seven-time Grammy award winner Paul Winter, a bird watching competition, and an international wildlife art exhibition premier.

Israel's location on the only land bridge between Europe, Asia and Africa make it uniquely suited as a birdwatching site from which to witness the flights of a large variety of migratory birds. More than 500 species have been recorded in Israel and over 400 of these occur annually.

The festival is a joint initiative between The Israel Ornithological Center of the SPNI, Israel Ministry of Tourism and the Galilee Authority. Proceeds from the event will go to various bird conservation projects around the country.

For more information: www.hulabirdfestival.org

