Bird Alliance
Central New Mexico
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

BIRD ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

January-February 2026

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT WILLIAM HARMON SAYS

"The camp had . . . a certain magic of learning that I will never forget."

As I circled the Portland, Maine airport in the early morning, the rain poured down the windows. Lightning illuminated the rocky coastline, and I began to dream of all the birds on the shore. It was nearly sunrise, but very hard to tell at the moment, with the torrential downpours obscuring any natural light. After two circles around the city, we finally landed.

In a few hours, the shuttle would come to deliver a handful of campers from the airport to the dock, and a boat would shuttle us to Hog Island, but for now, I occupied myself by looking out the window at the inches of water on the runway. The plane sat there for around two hours, so I had plenty of time to think about the next week. When I got off and waited for the sun to rise, I made my way to the sign saying Camp Hog Island Teen Campers, and met Arden, a volunteer who mainly handled transportation. Mik pulled up in a van with all the other campers and we got going.

My first taste of Maine birding was at Scarborough Marsh, near the airport. By the time we got there it was a little late for singing sparrows, but we observed a couple of gulls and ducks. My definite highlight was my lifer Common Eider, a handful of gorgeous males in breeding plumage and a group of females. Some of the others enjoyed Greater Black-backed Gull and American Black Duck just as much. In the later afternoon, once we reached the dock, we transferred all our luggage into motorboats to get to the island. The boat ride was short but beautiful, and I'd never been in a bay before with such beautiful

TOP: Tide pooling. Photo by Mik Oyler.
BOTTOM: Rowing to Egg Rock.
Photo by William Harmon.

mixed forest. We easily spotted Black Guillemot from the boat and had some great birds beforehand.

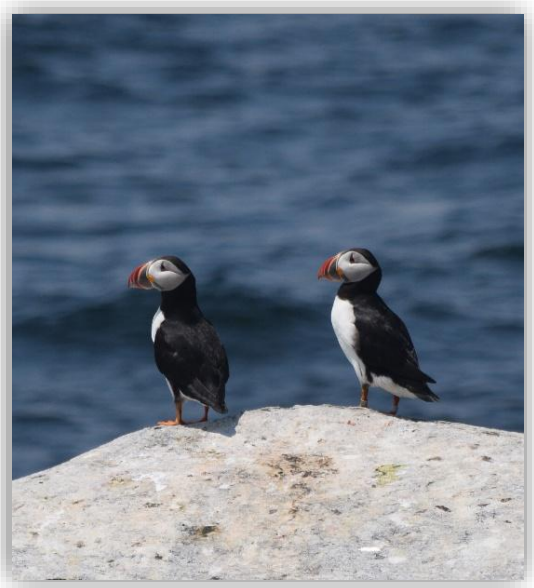
If you know of a young person between the age of 6 and 20 who has their heart set on a camp, program or course to learn about birds, wildlife or conservation, please guide them to the Ryan D. Beaulieu Youth Memorial Scholarship information on our website. They'll be glad you did!

Hog Island is the perfect place to study some wonderful species. Throughout my time there, I got to closely observe birds I was unfamiliar with, like Black-throated Green and Blackburnian warblers, Parula Warblers, Purple Finch, Common Loon, Herring Gulls, and Bald Eagles, to name a few. It was an ideal mix of observing and learning.

The days went by so fast, and they all blurred together, so I will share some highlights. Exploring the camp and the larger island was almost magical. The buildings were filled with so much history, and it was an honor to be a small part of it. We took a larger hike of the island and found Merlin, Red Crossbill, and Surf Scoters. We visited the resident artist and explored his fern photography. One of the best experiences we had was tide pooling and exploring what was hiding under the rocks, including nudibranchs, jellyfish, and marine worms.

We went out to the dock at night and watched the moon while we fished for creatures. We managed to find a worm-like creature and discovered it was a Northern Pipefish. That spirit of exploration was something everyone could feel and emulated, as we explored the environment around us.

Our staff were there every step of the way. Holly was someone who I had last year for Camp Delaware Bay, and she's amazing. Vicky is a newer birder who worked as a guidance counsellor, and we enjoyed her unique view of birding. The kitchen staff were also amazing, and we had the privilege of eating excellent food every day, including an amazing lobster meal on the final day.



Atlantic Puffins.
Photo by William Harmon.

Every night we would have a presentation on a topic by an expert, and I learned a lot about them. Some of the best topics were Ornitherapy, Bird Bills, and Recording Birds. Much of the camp was filled with insightful and informative sessions where we all learned something. We did field sketching, mindful birding, and more observation of singular birds.

Hands down, the favorite day was the trip to Eastern Egg Rock. The public aren't allowed on the island due to its importance as an alcid and tern breeding location, but the teen campers were specially allowed, weather permitting. The most important thing we had to learn was how to deal with the terns. Since they nested on the ground, their eggs were completely rock-like in pattern, so we needed to always walk single file and shout out eggs on the

path. Adding on top of this, the terns would constantly dive bomb you and poop until they felt they were safe. Despite the hectic conditions, and the very real possibility we couldn't land with bigger-than-desired waves, the island gave us the chance to see Arctic and Roseate Terns, as well as the most famous breeder and practical symbol of the camp, Atlantic Puffin. We also had the luck to see a pair of Razorbills and many campers' highlight bird, a Manx Shearwater that flew over the island (ironically named *Puffinus puffinus*). All the species were an absolute joy to observe and especially watching them go out to sea and come back with fish. The puffins would disappear into the crevices and come back out onto the boulders to hang out and look around.

The final day, we took a trip to the mainland, and we explored the wetlands, forests, and grasslands that held typical Maine birds. Some of the other campers and I had a miniature Big Day competition, which led us to never take us off the windows in the car and strain our ears to the farthest reaches of the forest. At the first stop, Back Brook Marsh, we had some excellent species such as Virginia Rail, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Marsh Wren, and Gray Catbird. Although being roadside was slightly sketchy, the marsh was filled with activity.

The resident Northern Parula Warbler.
Photo by Penelope Tong

As we drove into the deep forest, at Burkett Mill Preserve, we had the opportunity to hear Canada, Nashville, and Palm warblers, along with Alder, Yellow-bellied, and Olive-sided flycatchers calling in the trees. A couple of Broad-winged Hawks soared over as we moved from bog to woods, and we heard crossbills calling in the distance. We ended the day at Salt Bay Farm, a natural grassland, and targeted Bobolink, of which we had excellent views. Bluebirds and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were abundant here, and as we had lunch, we were surprised to spot a flock of Sandhill Cranes move overhead, a local rarity. I ended the day with 85 species.

"Once again, thank you so much for this opportunity. I met so many great people and saw so many great birds."

Leaving camp was the hardest part. I fell in love with the Maine coastline and forest, and the birds that breed there. The camp itself had so much history, and a certain magic of learning that I will never forget. The drive back was bittersweet, and waiting at the airport until it was just me was an almost perfect ending. On my flight to Baltimore, I saw New England clearly from the sky, and knew I would have to come back.

Curious about this little mark? It indicates the end of a story.

My Spark Bird by John "Lefty" Arnold, Bird Alliance Board Member

Living and working in Santa Barbara, California in the mid-1960s, I visited the historic Mission one day when I noticed an odd-looking bird roaming around the grassy lawn near the rose garden. It was about the size of an American Robin, was brown and white and black with a couple of black stripes on the front of its neck. It also was dashing around the grass and probing it from time to time.

Killdeer, Rio Grande Nature Center, March 2021. Photo by Lefty Arnold.

Intrigued by that bird, I visited a book shop that same day, where I was directed to the nature section and discovered the *Guide to the Birds of North America* published by Golden Press.

Browsing through the book, I was happy and somewhat surprised to find the mystery bird: A Killdeer! I read about the well-known and widely distributed shorebird when it dawned on me that the book I was holding (and shortly thereafter purchased) had more than 320 pages and probably a thousand illustrations identifying and describing different birds that could be seen in North America.

From that Spark Bird moment on, I have been a bird lover, a bird chaser, a leader of bird walks, a corny-joke teller, and a supporter of nature and its indescribably mysterious glory. And every time I see a splendid Killdeer, I am taken back to that moment in Santa Barbara when a chance observation stoked my sense of wonder and set me on a journey I continue to cherish.

See that empty box?

That's where the newsletter crew* keeps its Spark Bird Stories.** But the box is empty! We would love to share your story about what bird, place, situation, reason, etc. sparked you into being interested in birds. It is easy to do: Just email your story (plus pictures if you have some) to phoughton@bacnm.org and we'll store it in the box until it's time to share it in an upcoming newsletter.

* **Perrianne Houghton**, Content wrangler, editing and factotum
* **Lefty Arnold**, Editing, design, layout and factotum
* **Much-appreciated contributors** of stories, images and suggestions as well as past newsletter designers and helpers
** Canyon Wren, American Redstart, Killdeer (is your story next?)

Do you have a newsletter-related comment or suggestion? Please email your thoughts to Perrianne Houghton (phoughton@bacnm.org) and/or Lefty Arnold (johnleftyarnold@bacnm.org).

Birding Adventures at the Texas Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival

Story and photos by Kelly Aldridge

I recently returned from attending the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in Harlingen, Texas and I had a blast! The festival is scheduled in early November each year. I was introduced to the festival while having coffee with several Bird Alliance buddies this past summer. Glenda and Lefty had both attended the festival in the past and their obvious enthusiasm for the event left me quite curious. Tales of Green Jays, Common Pauraques, Plain Chachalacas (and many other exotic sounding birds!) had me on my computer researching the festival as soon as I arrived home from the coffee outing. An hour later I had a plane ticket, hotel reservations and car rental in place. When Festival registration opened, I secured a spot on three separate tours. I was good to go!

Plain Chachalaca

Arriving in Harlingen, late morning on November 5, I fetched the rental car and began to explore a bit of the Texas Rio Grande Valley birding scene prior to my first festival outing the next day. First stop: The National Butterfly Center outside of Mission. My biggest worry about the trip was that I would not find all the cool birds I wanted to see, returning home feeling disappointed. That was not to be! When I stepped out of my car, I was greeted by five Green Jays working the oak trees in the parking lot. They were not shy! I watched those strikingly beautiful (and noisy) birds for 20 minutes. What a great start to the trip!

Gray Hawk

The National Butterfly Center was amazing. A flagship project of the North American Butterfly Association, the center sits on about 100 acres of thorn scrub woodlands with both cultivated gardens and wildlands. Multiple trails wind through the center with ample opportunity to observe both birds and butterflies in the wild and at feeding stations. An impressive 240 plus species of butterflies have been documented at the Butterfly center. And it was fun watching butterfly enthusiasts stalk butterflies the way we birders chase after birds!

Queen Butterfly

During my explorations of the grounds, I was able to get great looks at 22 species of birds including Plain Chachalaca, a beautiful Buff-bellied Hummingbird, a perched Gray Hawk, noisy Great Kiskadees, a skulking Clay-colored Thrush and a Long-billed Thrasher. All lifers! And, the butterflies! I was quite surprised to find so many still present in November, forgetting I was in subtropical

south Texas. The Mexican Bluewing was a favorite as were the large gatherings of Queen butterflies. I look forward to a return visit to the Butterfly Center in the future.

Leaving the National Butterfly Center I travelled to Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park a few miles down the road. My visit there was brief, but I had a nice stroll through the park. Only the park's passenger tram is allowed on park roads so the park was quiet and peaceful. The highlight of my visit was watching a herd of Plain Chachalacas thrash around in the thorn scrub and pop out one–by-one (all 17!) and amble by. It was a nice way to end my day.

Green Kingfisher

While waiting to board a van at the Harlingen Convention Center for my first tour, a large flock of Red-Crowned Amazon Parrots flew overhead. Also, three noisy Tropical Kingbirds perched on nearby utility wires. What a treat and a great way to start the day!

That day's tour was by boat tour of the Arroyo Colorado River and the coastal Laguna Madre ecosystem. Our morning started with a bit of land birding near the Arroyo Colorado with guide Jeremy Dominguez, who was super knowledgeable and down-to-earth. The birding included two stops and was slow and low-key. A lot of fun! Highlights included both the Ringed and Green kingfishers, a pair of Harris Hawks, and a trio of Groove-billed Anis. Our guide for the boating portion of the tour was Justin LeClaire, who is a conservation officer with the non-profit Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries program. Justin also was a fantastic and knowledgeable guide.

We boarded our small boat at the Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park boat dock and set off down the Arroyo Colorado towards the Laguna Madre estuary. The target birds for the boat trip were the Mangrove Yellow Warbler and the Seaside Sparrow. Justin gently guided our boat to known habitat areas for both species that we successfully found. The birds gave us great looks! Our small group of six observed 60+ species for the trip including Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Laughing Gull, Brown Pelican, Willet, Caspian/Royal/Forster's terns, Ruddy Turnstone, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Dunlin, Tricolored Heron, Crested Caracara, Black Vulture, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Hooded Oriole, Great Kiskadee and Northern Bobwhite.

After grabbing lunch and a quick nap I was back at it with a night hike tour at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Our guides outfitted our group with both regular and UV flashlights and we were off to explore the refuge. Our first cool find was a Black Witch Moth. I have no photo but it's worth a google search to check out this big beauty. We also saw an impressive number of spiders (their eyes fluoresce!) illuminated along the roadsides with our UV lights as well as small bark Scorpions. We obviously didn't see a lot of birds as it was a night hike but walking along the Willow Lake trail, we could hear Wilson's Snipes calling from the water and we did get nice looks at several Common Pauraques in search of flying insects as they flew through the beams of light cast from our flashlights. Towards the end of our hike, we found an armadillo rummaging through the understory. It's always fun to see these armored creatures!

The morning of day two of the festival was spent birding a unit of the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area (WMA). These wildlife areas were initially acquired to preserve White-winged Dove habitat (and for dove hunting). Over time the management focus shifted to include restoration of native Tamaulipan thorn-scrub and efforts to remove non-native/invasive grasses. Hunting continues but the area also is open to researchers studying birds and other animals and, occasionally, tour groups like ours. The WMA borders the Arroyo Colorado River on one side, which is where our group spent much of our time. We watched a constant and impressive flow of gulls, egrets, herons, anhinga, cormorants, pelicans, vultures (Turkey and Black) and birds of prey/hawks (Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Harris', Northern Harrier, Osprey, Kestrel, Crested Caracara) flying down and around the river. We also took a short hike along a two-track road that yielded an equally impressive number of songbird species: Green Jay, Altamira Oriole, Olive Sparrow, Long-billed Thrasher, Great Kiskadee, Carolina Wren (what a singer!), Mourning and Eurasian Collared dove (oddly, no White-winged Doves), Belted Kingfisher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Verdin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Cardinal, to name a few of the birds that our group saw.

Common Pauraque

After completing the three festival tours I attended, I spent the remainder of my time in the area exploring on my own. Saturday morning was spent travelling back to Santa Ana NWR on a fog-shrouded highway through farm country bordering the Rio Grande. A stop at a Valero gas station to fuel up yielded an accidental find of roughly 92 Bronzed Cowbirds perched on a utility wire near Progresso, Texas. Back at Santa Ana I was able to locate and enjoy great looks at one of the bird species I'd hoped to find, the Least Grebe. Quite diminutive and cute! After a text alert from a festival friend, I'd met a few days earlier, I spotted the Hook-billed Kite cruising intermittently around the refuge. As I left the refuge for the day, a perched Carolina Wren was duetting with another distant wren. Kind of shocking that a bird so small can sing SO loud! Saturday afternoon was spent on South Padre Island exploring the county mudflats and local beach areas. I saw Laughing Gulls, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Willet, White Ibis, Great Egret, Tri-colored Heron, Great Blue Heron, Royal Tern and Brown Pelicans on the mudflats, but my favorite birds were the white morph Reddish Egrets sprinting, jumping and staggering about in search of a meal. They really are very comical to watch! I spent the last part of the day sitting on the beach farther down the island watching Sanderlings race the waves and diving Forster's Terns a short way out over the ocean.

White morph Reddish Egret

On Sunday morning, before I had to return to the airport and head home, I visited Hugh Ramsey City Park in Harlingen. My trip ended much as it began with Green Jays and Plain Chachalacas entertaining me. I sat for a bit at one of the park feeder areas and watched a small group of chachalacas ingest what appeared to be thick strands of pasta, which seemed pretty weird. It turned out they were eating strips of banana peel, slurping the peel strips down like a piece of spaghetti! I also was treated to nice looks of Inca and White-tipped doves at the feeder area. The highlight of my last morning, though, was running into two festival guides who were at the park to lead family bird walks. One of the guides approached and said, "Would you like to see a Common Pauraque?" Well, yeah! She quietly guided me to a thorn scrub area where the Pauraque was resting/sleeping on the ground. It is a beautiful bird that camouflaged nicely with its surroundings. It was a really nice way to finish up my trip.

Least Grebe

And by the way, the festival had a wonderful Birder's Bazaar trade show as well as great guest speakers. And I met some interesting and nice people on my tours. The community of Harlingen puts on a great festival! I look forward to returning to this part of Texas in the future.

THURSDAY BIRDERS 2025 OVERVIEW

By Lefty Arnold

This long-standing Bird Alliance program to participate in almost once-a-week outings throughout the year looking for birds, chatting with friends, and nurturing the collective sense of wonder of participants resulted in a vibrant tally during 2025! As always, we sincerely give a special message of appreciation to all the Thursday Birders leaders, participants, and a super thank you to Shannon Caruso and Perrianne Houghton for their hard-working efforts to schedule these enjoyable field trips.

Each 2025 field trip resulted in an eBird report, with some trips recording more than one report if the group birded different locations on a specific Thursday. All eBird reports can be accessed from the Birding page of the Bird Alliance website.

Each eBird field trip checklist report includes:

- Each location the group birded
- Each bird species seen (including the approximate number of each species)
- The number of participants on each eBird field trip
- Field notes as appropriate (such as duration of visit, distance covered, weather, etc.)

Here is a snapshot of Thursday Birders 2025 activities:

- Total number of field trips: 38
- Average number of participants per trip: 18
- Total number of eBird checklists submitted: 47
- Total number of specific bird species reported: 190
- Average number of species reported per report: 27

Brown Thrasher, Maryland/ Rick Dove/Audubon Photography Awards

Total number of counties visited: Seven

- Bernalillo: 25 field trips; 26 checklists; 157 species
- Cibola: Two field trips; two checklists; 72 species
- San Miguel: Two field trips; two checklists; 21 species
- Sandoval: Eight field trips; 12 checklists; 75 species
- Santa Fe: Two field trips, two checklists, 24 species
- Socorro: Four field trips; seven checklists; 129 species
- Torrance: One field trip; one checklist; 21 species

Olive Warbler, Catalina State Park, Arizona/Gary Robinette/Audubon Photography Awards

Number of species added to the Thursday Birders life list during 2025: Seven. From the earliest 2025 checklist (January 30) to the latest (October 2) they are:

- Prairie Falcon
- Sagebrush Sparrow
- Chihuahuan Meadowlark
- Brown Thrasher
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Olive Warbler
- Red-eyed Vireo

Cumulative totals from June 2021 to December 2025:

- Field trips: 146
- Checklists: 232
- Species: 228
- Counties: Eight

Male Rufous Hummingbird. Photo by Lefty Arnold

UPCOMING HUMMINGBIRD WORKSHOP

Environment for the Americas is a nonprofit organization that connects people to nature and birds through internships, programs and resources. The organization is seeking input for their Hummingbird Conservation Workshop in Sedona, Arizona in August 2026. Click here if you are interested in learning more and/or participating in the workshop.

YELLOW-SHAFTED? RED-SHAFTED? IT IS A NORTHERN FLICKER

Story and photos by Jason Kitting, Bird Alliance Board member

The Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is an adaptable and widespread species of woodpecker that is known for having two different color morphs. These color morphs include the "Yellow-shafted" form from the eastern US and the Canadian boreal forest, and the "Red-shafted" form from western US/Canada and Mexico. These colors refer to the coloration of the feather shafts in the wings (see left two pictures) and tails, but there are more differences between the two than just shaft color.

The Yellow-shafted Flickers (top birds) not only have yellow shafts, but also have buffy faces and throats, gray heads and necks, and red crescents in their napes. Male Yellow-shafts also have black "mustaches" that are not present in the females.

The Red-shafted Flicker (bottom birds) have red shafts, but also have mostly gray heads, small buffy face masks, and lack the red crescents in their napes. Male Red-shafts have red "mustaches" which are either not present in the females at all, or are a partial buffy mustache that matches the color of the mask.

In the central US and along the Canadian Rockies there are large areas where these two-color morphs inter-breed. Many of these hybrid birds often will show mixed characteristics of both color morphs and often have orange feather shafts. It also should be noted that pure Yellow-shafts can show red feathers if they eat honeysuckle berries while their feathers are growing in.

All banding is being conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory.

? **DID YOU KNOW? The New Mexico Department of Wildlife has scheduled its first annual Birding Big Year Contest for the state of New Mexico. A Big Year is a personal challenge or an informal competition among birders who attempt to identify as many species of birds as possible by sight or sound, within a single calendar year and within a specific geographic area. Please visit their website for details: New Mexico Department of Wildlife.**

Photo by Dave Eslinger

What does an intergrade between a Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted look like? Keep reading for an article by Asher Gorbet discussing that phenomenon.

THIS FLICKER IS A FANTASTIC EXAMPLE

By Asher Gorbet, Bird Alliance Board member

This bird, which was seen by participants and **photographed by Dave Eslinger** on a Thursday Birders field trip to the Alameda Bridge area in Albuquerque in October 2025 and reported on eBird, is a fantastic example of an intergrade Northern Flicker that shows distinct characteristics of both red- and yellow-shafted forms. Considering only this bird's head and face, we see a male flicker with red moustache, gray throat and cheek, and a buffy mask. His face looks pretty classically 'Red-shafted" Flicker. But wait! What's going on with the feather shafts?! They are very clearly yellow, indicating intergradation with "Yellow-shafted" Flicker.

While pure Yellow-shafted Flickers can show orangey feather shaft colors due to ingesting excessive amounts of carotenoids (often non-native honeysuckle berries) during molting, this never goes the other way—pure Red-shafted Flickers will never show yellow feather shafts. Hence, the striking combination of red moustache (a red-shafted feature) and yellow shafts (a yellow-shafted feature) on this bird can quickly get us to the proper identification of an "Intergrade" Northern Flicker.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of the intergrade flickers seen in our area do not show striking yellow shafts to the tail and wing feathers as the bird in our photo does. These other birds are more cryptic, showing orangey-red feather shafts, and requiring closer scrutiny to pick them out of the masses of pure Red-shafted Flickers that breed, migrate, and winter in forests across New Mexico.

Because the red coloration in wing and tail feathers of Red-shafted flickers is also somewhat carotenoid-based, intensity in red color is variable from individual to individual and season to season, showing an array of orangey to red hues to these feather shafts. Because of this, feather shaft color is not the best feature to use to pick out an intergrade. Rather, facial pattern and color are the keys. Importantly, a feature not visible on our bird in the photographs is the red crescent on the back of the nape in Yellow-shafted Flicker. Many Intergrade Flickers and intergrade backcrosses to Red-shafted Flicker (Red-shafted Flicker x Intergrade Flicker) will show red on the nape. In some individuals this can be reduced to just a few feathers on a bird that otherwise looks like a pure Red-shafted Flicker. Other interesting things to look for on Intergrade Flickers are mixed-moustache color in males and various combinations of gray and buff on the face of both forms.

We are so lucky in New Mexico to be able to find flickers in most of the places where we enjoy birding. While you're out birding this winter, take a closer look at those flickers and see if you can find some intergrade birds among them!

That's not a Northern Flicker. That's an uncommon Common Crane!

By Lefty Arnold

Common Crane. Photo by Zac Carlson.

When my friend Zac Carlson of Santa Fe and I heard about the Common Crane (*Grus grus*) that was reported near and in the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge a few days before Thanksgiving, we hoped the bird would there a day or so after the holiday. It was: A few eBird reports noted the rare visitor had been seen on November 27, so Zac and I packed binoculars, cameras and a spotting scope and went in search of the Eurasian bird hanging out with a few of its cousins the Sandhill Cranes.

Heading toward the refuge and coming over a rise about a mile or so from the Visitors Center (and not on the refuge itself), we saw one car pulled off to the side and there, across the road, was the Common Crane and six Sandhill Cranes about 30 feet away. Yow! It was a LIFER for both of us!

In very little time, all seven birds took flight and flew into the distance, with a few other birders who arrived just before the birds flew away missing them. But not all was lost: A pair of Red-tailed Hawks, two Ferrginous Hawks and a Northern Mockingbird, among others, caught our collective attention and kept us busy until the Common Crane and a few Sandhills returned to feed among the corn stubble.

Click here for more information about the Common Crane on the National Audubon website.

After watching the infrequent visitor for an hour or so, it was off to check on the refuge on a cold and blustery day, which provided looks at 31 species of birds, including a glimpse of a not-easy-to-find female Black Scoter that was too far away to capture a definitive image.

BirdNote® — 20 Years of Storytelling —

BirdNote Daily® is a two-minute radio show that combines rich sounds with engaging stories, to illustrate the amazing lives of birds and give listeners a momentary respite from the news of the day.

The Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico is a not-for-profit chapter of the National Audubon Society. Its mission is to protect and conserve birds and wildlife habitats in our region, support responsible stewardship of land, promote environmental education, and welcome all communities to join us in the love and appreciation of birds.

For more information, please visit these websites: Bird Alliance and National Audubon Society.