



Birdland

By Steve Egiroire

Unlike watching a poorly executed football game, backyard winter birding is sure to excite family and friends alike. With a handy pair of binoculars, field guide and a pile of warm clothes, an otherwise boring early morning can be transformed into an exciting educational experience. From large airborne predators to colorful waterfowl, the broad range of species thriving in our wintery climate speaks to the tenacity of life here in the Southwest. For those wondering about the best spots to look, anywhere along the Animas River is a great place to begin your hunt. Other areas of open water such as ponds and lakes will also reveal a multitude of intriguing characters. Here's a look:



Mergansers take flight.



A common golden eye takes a break between underwater dives for food.



A juvenile bald eagle soars along the Animas River.



Hérons come in for a landing.



Canada geese socialize on the banks of the Animas.



Scanning the horizons, a bald eagle perches near its nest.