

Young Birders + Winter Break = Birding & Birds

Elle, age 10 and Sam, age 6, went to Utah to visit their grandpa. Their grandpa lives on a farm and has Barn Owls living in his property. Though the Barn Owls were snoozing when they visited, there were hundreds of pellets and rodent skulls on the ground near where they roost. Elle and Sam enjoyed collecting the pellets and dissecting them.



Their grandpa has a wonderful video of a juvenile Barn Owl defending himself from the camera. Here is the link to the fantastic short video.

Enjoy! <https://photos.app.goo.gl/8gdAzrnXE4r9t1Xq8>

Aaron age 13 is super lucky to have family in New Zealand. Aaron wrote, “Just got back from New Zealand. Had a good time and saw good birds. Here’s a photo I took of a New Zealand Morepork.” Wow!



Max, age 7, also went Down Under for winter break! He and his family went to Australia for where they saw lots Laughing Kookaburras, Little Corellas and Rainbow Lorikeets. Max’s photos of a Black-faced Cormorant, a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, a Brush Turkey chick and a Cape Barren Goose.



Molly, age 16, went to Michigan for winter break, where she spent a long time watching the common birds around her grandparents' house, such as Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and European Starlings. She also tried and failed to find a Snowy Owl, but while looking for the owl she saw a lifer - a Long-tailed Duck!



Desmond, age 8, birded around southern California including the lower San Gabriel River where he saw a Green Sea Turtle - the most northerly spot to find these Turtles!

Calvin, age 13, went skiing in Utah over winter break with his family. While skiing was super fun, Calvin looked for birds too! Calvin reports that, “Utah was awesome! I spent my winter break skiing and birding around Salt Lake City, Utah. I searched for rosy-finches at the tops of mountains and was rewarded with beautiful close-up views of Gray-crowned Rosy-finches. In addition, I birded Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area and saw thousands of birds – many species of ducks and gulls, Tundra Swans, Eagles, and Northern Harriers everywhere!



Teodelina, age 18, birded around Southern California with friends. She saw and digiscoped a Red-whiskered Bulbul at the Huntington Gardens, captured a distant view of a California Condor while volunteering as a nest watcher for the Condor program, and took an artistic shot of a huge kettle of Larus gulls at Malibu Lagoon.

