

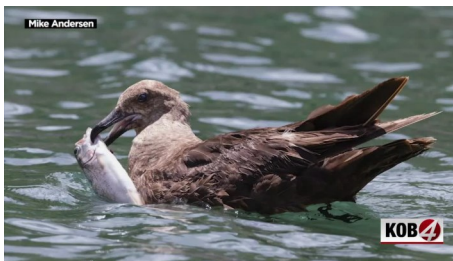
## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of ENMU-Ruidoso Branch Community College

Sept. 8, 2026

### Biology Class Sees Once-In-A-Lifetime Bird— South Polar Skua

ENMU-Ruidoso's Chair of the Science and Math Department and Biology Faculty Shelly Elfelt took the BIOL2610, Principles of Biology—Diversity, Ecology, and Evolution class, on their first field trip Aug. 27. The first working fieldtrip of the semester was planned to go to Bonito Lake, where they would connect their fieldwork with the recent proposal to close the lake to recreation. However, Professor Elfelt learned about the South Polar Skua bird sighting the night before and presented both options to the students when they met. "They unanimously chose the potentially once-in-a-lifetime bird exploration," said Elfelt. "Students maintain a bird 'life list' as part of the course, so, rather incredibly, a South Polar Skua was the very first bird added to their lists this semester," said Elfelt. "This was the perfect example of why field-based learning matters. Our students had the opportunity to witness an extraordinarily rare biological event right here in Ruidoso, and they will likely remember that experience far longer than anything I could have shown them on a lecture slide," said Elfelt.



Left to right: ENMU-Ruidoso Students Cynthia Leyva, Mallory Robbins, Ashtyn Walter, Ezequiel Leyva (kneeling), MJ Moreno, Cami Pelcastre, Professor Shelly Elfelt, Cole Hanshew, Brayden Rocha, Chance Vargas, and Thatcher Bryan. Dr. Chris Fulcher not pictured.

### Upcoming Events

#### September

##### 8 Tuesday

- ◇ Youth Karate, Rm109, 5-6p
- ◇ Adult Karate, Rm109, 6:15-7:15p

##### 9 Wednesday

- ◇ ENMU Portales Recruiter On Campus, Learning Commons, 9a-1p
- ◇ What's Up? Wednesday, How to Look Good on Paper, FREE Lunch, 11a-1p
- ◇ New Mexico Flavor Cooking Class, Sopaipillas, Rm111, 5-7p



##### 10 Thursday

- ◇ Student Hire Fair, Student Achievement Hub, 1-4p
- ◇ In-person Study Night, FREE Taco Bar, SAH, 5-7p

##### 11 Friday

- ◇ 1st 8wk Course Withdrawal Deadline
- ◇ Student Hire Fair, Student Achievement Hub, 9a-12p
- ◇ All-Staff meeting, 12:30-2:30p
- ◇ Cross Country Meet, NMJC, Hobbs, NM

##### 14 Monday

- ◇ Free I-CAN Nutrition/Cooking Class, Create a Sandwich or Wrap, Rm120, 5-6:30p

##### 16 Wednesday

- ◇ 2nd 4wk Course Add/Drop Deadline
- ◇ NM Higher Education Day at NM State Fair, ABQ

##### 17 Thursday

- ◇ Constitution Day Presentation, Rm201

##### 18 Friday

- ◇ Cross Country Meet, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas



##### 18-19 Friday & Saturday

- ◇ College Rodeo, Grand Canyon Regional, Duncan, Ariz.

**What's Up?**  
**ACHIEVEMENThub**  
**MONTHLY Wednesday EVENT**  
**Sept. 9**  
**11a - 1p · SAH**  
Lunch provided  
**A resume building and interview skills workshop**  
**How to Look Good on Paper**  
JOB APPLICATION, RESUME, INTERVIEW, TIPS

**student ACHIEVEMENThub**  
**Student Hire Fair**  
**Thursday, Sept. 10**  
**1 to 4 p.m.**  
~ and ~  
**Friday, Sept. 11**  
**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
in the SAH & Learning Commons, food will be provided both days.  
Meet with campus managers and department heads who are looking for student workers.  
You will need to bring a resume and dress professionally.  
There will be onsite interviews for campus jobs.  
**ENMU RUIDOSO**  
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