



Art Morris has led bird photography tours to Bosque del Apache NWR every November for the past 16 years. Morris started the annual “Bosque Open Windows” volunteer program to make the refuge more photographer-friendly. | Robert O’Toole Photography

## Art Morris, Wildlife Photographer, Indian Lake Estates, Florida

**W**ildlife photographer Art Morris, whose “Birds As Art Bulletins” and photography blog generate 800,000 web page views every month, has taken some of his most stunning photographs at national wildlife refuges, particularly Bosque del Apache in San Antonio, New Mexico, one of his “favorite places on the planet.” Every November for the past 16 years, Morris has led groups of students to the refuge to teach them the art of bird photography in a field classroom that offers spectacular views of snow geese, sandhill cranes, ducks, sunsets, and “blast-offs” of thousands of birds. It’s critical to Morris that a refuge like Bosque is managed “for the birds *and* for the people.”

Photographers pay more than \$3,200 to spend seven days with Morris at Bosque. And the money they spend on rental cars, gear, lodging, and meals gives a boost to San Antonio’s rural economy. “Over the course of the last 16 years, I have inspired thousands of people to visit the refuge and can confidently say that they have spent millions of dollars while they were there,” he says. Morris’s connection with the refuge also led him to create the “Bosque Open Windows” volunteer project in 2008. Every year since then, Morris and a crew of fellow photographers have spent a week each fall working with refuge staff to cut back vegetation that can interfere with capturing the perfect shot of Bosque’s spectacular bird life. It’s good for the refuge, and it’s good for the photographers.