

Tom Bennett Art and Environmental Science Contest 2009  
San Bernardino County Museum Association  
**Birds of a Feather**

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**BIRD AND HABITAT RESOURCES**

**RESOURCES AT THE MUSEUM**

The San Bernardino County Museum Loan Program has Study Kits on various ecosystems of the region, plus individual specimens to provide students with opportunities to access the real thing. Many schools are members already; call the Museum at 909-307-2669 x 245 to find about your school. *All teachers who are working on this project receive **one free loan transaction** for use in their classroom.*

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/divisions/education/loans.htm>

The Museum's exhibits also contain scores of birds, organized by the broad ecosystem categories of the region. All the birds you include in your scrapbook will likely be on exhibit at the Museum. Encourage a weekend field trip with the family to give students an opportunity to involve parents and siblings for a fun learning experience. Cost for a family of five ranges from \$22-27. Museum admission is free on the first Sunday of every month (November 1, 2009). Check out the Museum's events calendar for programs at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/calendar/current.htm>

**WEBSITES FOR PHOTOS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

<http://waynesword.palomar.edu/lmexer10.htm#biome>

This site is recommended as a starting point for those unsure of the basic ecology needed for this project. It is a treasure trove of information useful to the teacher preparing for this program. The page linked here gives an overview of ecosystems, plant communities and bioregions. It is useful to look this over to review these ecology concepts. (The linked page is long, but the most useful information is just near the top). The rest of the Wayne's World website is worth exploring, too. Enjoy!

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\\_Floristic\\_Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Floristic_Province)

This site introduces the California Floristic Province as a bioregion. Since it is a wikipedia site, expect to use it ONLY for general reference, and not as a source for correct information about specific ecosystems, habitats, or species.

<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species>

This site has descriptions of hundreds of birds. It gives an introduction, but beyond that requires a low-cost subscription through personal log-in.

<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/fauna/com-Bird.html>

With just the common name of the bird you are looking for, this provides multiple photos both in and out of their habitats. Most photos on this site may be used for the Art and Environmental Science Competition, with proper credit given (each photos gives use and credit details).

<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/landscape/>

This page on the same website offers photos of various habitats, including many in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

[http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial\\_na.html#mediter](http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial_na.html#mediter)

This site gives a few pictures and a lot of description about the following inland southern California ecosystems:

- # California coastal sage and chaparral
- # California interior chaparral and woodlands
- # California montane chaparral and woodlands
- # Mojave Desert

<http://www.backyardnature.com/cgi-bin/gt/tpl.h,content=353>

This site provides a good list of common birds in southern California.

<http://www.backyardnature.com/cgi-bin/gt/tpl.h,content=401>

This site also gives some information about attracting birds by planting native plants in a home or garden environment.

<http://mojavedesert.net/habitat/>

This site offers excellent descriptions of local habitats within larger ecosystems. It's a good site to help you determine the habitat type you live near.

[http://www.prbo.org/calpif/pdfs/Scrub\\_handout.pdf](http://www.prbo.org/calpif/pdfs/Scrub_handout.pdf)

This link offers some basics on landscaping for native birds, and will give clues as to the species of plants that students might include on their pages.

<http://www.blueskyreserve.org/index.html>

This reserve is in San Diego County, but is equivalent ecologically to the San Bernardino and Riverside areas for the purposes of this project. Find photos and descriptions of some birds of semi-wild, canyon and nearby habitats.

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/cplantsanimals.html>

This is a good site for birds of the chaparral, an ecosystem that occurs on the low slopes of the local mountains and all across the rolling hills. Many students live nearby the chaparral.

<http://www.laspilitas.com/>

This site has tons of photos of birds and habitats, as well as native plants!

<http://digital-desert.com/wildlife/birds/>

This site, though commercial, gives a good list of desert birds and birds from other regions, as well. It is a good starting place for additional research. Be careful with commercial sites like this—they imply all the birds listed occur in desert habitats, but in fact they do not.

<http://www.birding.com/basics.asp>

This is a commercial site, but does contain plenty of accurate and useful information, including introduction and hints for backyard birding.

<http://ca.audubon.org/>

This is the quintessential site for all things bird, of course!

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&t=h&hl=en&msa=0&msid=108208772478691043243.000453167c7f048348671&ll=34.143635,-115.422363&spn=6.635627,9.84375&z=7>

This is a map of inland county birding sites, which may be used as a starter point to find more information related to your specific geographic location. Plus, it's a really cool application!

<http://www.imperial.edu/~birds/>

Though directed to environs of the Imperial Valley, most of the birds listed on this page can be found in similar habitats throughout in both desert regions. Be sure to cross-check each species you consider with another site, just to be sure. (There are not too many birds that frequent the desert around Imperial Valley that also do not occur in similar habitat types in the Mojave Desert.)

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/about/resource-mgmt.html>

This is the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Resources site. It contains great narratives and photos of plants and animals by region. Under Resource Management, you can search for bird species by specific region. This will result in a good list for students to start with.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/cawildlife.aspx>

This page allows a search for specific species of animals.

## **BOOKS**

### **Comprehensive Natural History and Ecosystem Guides**

*A Natural History of California*

Alan Schoenherr

*Introduction to California Chaparral*

Ronald D. Quinn and Sterling C. Keeley

*Deserts: Audubon Society Nature Guides*

James MacMahon

*Nature Guide to the Mountains of Southern California: By Car and On Foot*

Bill Havert and Gary Gray

### **Birds**

*Field Guide to Birds: Western Region*

Donald and Lillian Stokes

*Western Birds*

Roger Tory Peterson

*The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*

David Allen Sibley