

Tom Bennett Art and Environmental Science Contest 2010
San Bernardino County Museum Association

Migration Madness

MIGRATORY BIRD REFERENCES AND 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 individuals and 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 families and teachers who are working on this project receive ONE FREE LOAN transaction for use with their family or in their classroom.

Materials may be borrowed for up to two weeks.

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/discover/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 poster or scrapbook will likely be on exhibit at the Museum.

Families: enjoy a trip to the Museum to get ideas for your poster design. Attend Birds of a Feather Family Fun Day on October 23, 2010, for fun activities and a chance to learn even more. Activities run 10:00-5:00. A family membership is just \$40 and includes free admission to the Museum for a whole year.

Teachers: 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. Come to, or encourage students to attend, Birds of a Feather Family Fun Day on October 23, 2010, with activities running 10:00-5:00. Check out the Museum's website for more programs,

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/calendar/current.htm>

WEBSITES FOR PHOTOS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

*** This site is recommended as a starting point for those unsure of the basic ecology needed for this project.

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

This site is a treasure trove of information useful when 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://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 bird list to start with.

http://www.reference.com/browse/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

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.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 southern California residents 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/biogeodata/cwhr/cawildlife.aspx>

This page allows a search for specific species of animals.

BOOKS

Many of these books are available at county and city libraries. Be careful with general children's books on birds and wildlife. Many are too generic to allow you to find birds that actually occur in southern California at some point in their migration cycle. Books listed here are intended to help you focus your search focus on California.

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

Books listed here are field guides. Use the range maps inside to get a quick visual picture of a species migration patterns.

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

Public Meetings

The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. at the San Bernardino County Museum on the third Wednesday of each month. While preparing for this competition, and then after you have developed an interest in birds, attend an Audubon program and talk to the people there, who are always willing to answer questions and share information about birds. The Chapter offers Very Beginning Bird Walks as well as longer day field trips. Contact chapter members at www.sbvas.org.

Some HINTS for ALL competition entrants: Be sure you understand what your and/or your students are researching and writing about. Many popular non-fiction books – especially those aimed to children – are very general, and do not give specific species for the ecosystems and habitats of inland southern California. For this reason, online sources are the best for locating bird species of your region, especially those of local and state agencies and wildlife organizations such as Audubon Society or California Fish and Game Department. Many birds live in multiple habitats, so be sure you can identify the specific range of the species your students are illustrating and writing about.