



2008 Christmas Bird Count Information

Saturday, December 27, 2008

In place of the Chapter's usual monthly field trip, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will join chapters across the country and take part in National Audubon's 109th annual Christmas Bird Count. The count is part of the world's largest cooperative wildlife survey with over 50,000 participants in North and Central America, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. Count totals are forwarded to and analyzed by interested researchers in cooperation with the NAS and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

The bird count provides a measure of the nation's early wintering bird populations including species composition, distribution and population trends. Bird count numbers are often the only long-term, comprehensive information regarding local wintering bird populations. As the Chapter count enters its second fifty years some trends are clearly evident: the skill level of the counters continues to improve, the numbers of even the common most birds continues to decline with a few notable exceptions, and some species have long disappeared from the count while others are relative newcomers.

Members and friends of the Chapter are encouraged to save the date and join one of the count groups listed below as numbers of participants are crucial to the success of the count. The more eyes in the field, the more birds are seen. Several of our count areas are underserved and can use the additional help. Extensive birding experience is not necessary, only a willingness to come out and count wind, rain, or shine.

Those unable to join one of the count groups may assist by noting species and numbers of birds at backyard feeders, parks, and neighborhoods provided the location of such counts is within a 7.5 mile straight line distance from the count center at the intersection of Nordhoff and Balboa. Please report such counts along with the hours spent observing to the compiler by letter, phone, or e-mail (wrentit@att.net) no later than and preferably before January 5, 2009.

While count participation is free and open to all, a \$5 donation to offset the Chapter's fee due NAS will be greatly appreciated and accepted.

Hansen Dam and Vicinity Meeting Time: 7:00 a.m.

From the intersection of Osborne and Glenoaks go north on Osborne to Dronfield, turn right on Dronfield and enter the park. Proceed downhill to a large parking lot. Look for counters with binoculars. Bring lunch, drink. Leader: Jim Hardesty

Bee Canyon and O'Melveny Park Meeting Time: 12 noon

From the intersection of Balboa and Rinaldi, go north on Balboa to Sesnon. Turn left (west) on Sesnon and continue .5 miles. Park is on the right. Meet in the parking lot. Leader: Ron Melin

Sepulveda Wildlife Area Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.

Meet at the parking lot east of Woodley Avenue and north of Burbank Blvd., south of the Tillman Water Treatment Plant. Bring lunch, drink. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp

LA Pierce College Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m.

Enter the campus from Winnetka Avenue and meet by the flagpole in front of the Administration Building. Bring drink, snacks. Leaders: Allan and Muriel Kotin and others. Allan and Muriel need assistance here.

Limekiln and Aliso Canyons, Porter Valley Country Club Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meet at Limekiln Canyon. Park on the north side of Rinaldi about one block west of Tampa. This area was heavily impacted by the Sesnon fire but may still be worth a look. Leaders: Carolyn Oppenheimer and Donna Timlin

Wilson Canyon Meeting time: 7:30 a.m.

Directions: Exit the 5 or 210 Freeways on Roxford and turn right (north). Roxford turns east and becomes Olive View. Continue about 1.2 miles, pass Olive View Hospital, and watch the sign indicating entrance to Wilson Canyon. Turn left and follow road .7 miles to parking lot overlooking dam. This is a fee area. Leader: Jim Moore

Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir

For information regarding the time and meeting location of possible counting activities in this location, phone the compiler (Art Langton), prior to count day, at (818) 887-0973.

Additional locations, times, and leaders as well as changes and modifications may be announced at the December 4 membership meeting.

Art Langton, compiler