

2009 Christmas Bird Count Information

Saturday, December 26, 2009

In place of the Chapter's usual monthly field trip, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will once again join chapters across the country and take part in National Audubon's 110th 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 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 winter bird populations including species composition, distribution, and population trends. Bird count numbers are often the only long-term, comprehensive information available regarding local wintering bird populations. As this chapter's count enters its second half century, some trends are clearly evident. While the skill level of the counters and field guides continue to improve the numbers of some of the most common birds continues to decline. Still others have disappeared from count totals while some others are relative newcomers to the count area.

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 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 these counts take place within a 7.5 mile distance from the count center at the intersection of Nordhoff and Balboa. Please report such counts along with time spent observing to the compiler by letter, phone, or e-mail (Art.Langton@SFVAudubon.org) no later than and preferably before January 4, 2010.

While count participation is free and open to all, a \$5/person donation to offset the chapter's payment to 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. This large area needs several counters. Leader: Brenda Pfaff

Additional locations, times, and leaders as well as changes and modifications may be announced at the December 3 membership meeting.

Art Langton, compiler

Limekiln & Aliso Canyons and

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

Veteran's Park, El Cariso Park, Pacoima Wash, Wilson Canyon Meeting time: 7:30 a.m.

From the Foothill Freeway (I-210) exit north onto Hubbard Street. The park is on the right just past Eldridge Avenue and Mission College. Turn right into the third park entrance and meet in the parking lot at the end. Bring snacks, lunch, and drink. Leader: Jim Moore

Chatsworth Nature Preserve Meeting time: TBA

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