

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

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Introduction and Program Description

Birds live all around us. At any time, of any day, you can find birds out and about, looking for food, mates or nesting sites. Some birds live in many places, while others restrict their lives to a single habitat type. With **Birds of a Feather**, students get creative and have fun while learning about birds in their own backyards.

For this **Tom Bennett Art and Environmental Science Competition**, students research and create narratives and artworks depicting birds in their own ecosystem – desert, mountain, chaparral, or urban/suburban zones. Each student's art and written work is compiled in a class scrapbook. Competition criteria reflect State of California Content Standards and include science and geography content and grade-level reading and writing skills.

**Competition categories:** kindergarten, grades 1-2, grades 3-4, and grades 5-6. Public, private and homeschool, and special education classes are encouraged to participate.  
**Classroom entries are due at the Museum by 6:00 pm Tuesday November 10, 2009.**

Entrants are eligible to win these prizes:

**Grand Prize – all categories eligible:**

Free bus transportation and admission for a field trip to the San Bernardino County Museum for the class (not to exceed \$600)  
Free Loan membership for the school (\$100 value)

**Second Grand Prize – all categories eligible:**

Free Museum on the Road outreach program (\$150 value)  
Free Loan membership for the school (\$100 value)

**Prizes for EACH COMPETITION CATEGORY (K, 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 categories):**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** Free class Loan Program membership (\$100 value), a \$50 gift certificate to the Museum gift shop, and a kit of materials for studying birds
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place** \$50 gift certificate to the Museum Gift Shop and a kit of materials for studying birds
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place** \$25 gift certificate to the Museum Gift Shop and a kit of materials for studying birds

All participating classes will receive a framed Award of Merit certificate and a ribbon. Teachers, students and their families are invited as our guests to the Awards Ceremony on Saturday, November 21, 2008 at 3:00 pm.

Hundreds of students around the Inland Empire have enjoyed the Tom Bennett Art and Environmental Science Competition for over 20 years. The competition combines science and writing education with exploration of the natural environments around us. The staff members of the San Bernardino County Museum Association and the San Bernardino County Museum Education Division wish you and your students the best in this endeavor, and hope your students find opportunities to enjoy the birds in their neighborhoods, school yards, backyards and community parks.

Additional information and contest details will be available after October 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 at [http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/divisions/education/school\\_programs.htm](http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/divisions/education/school_programs.htm).

We thank the San Bernardino County Fish and Game Commission for making this program possible as part of our annual Wildlife Art Festival.