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OJAI VALLEY MUSEUM HOSTS BIRDS OF THE OJAI VALLEY EXHIBIT

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there are more than 47 million bird watchers in the United States, about twenty percent of the population! A new exhibit at the Ojai Valley Museum will showcase dozens of the more than 250 species of birds that live among us in the Ojai Valley, from hummingbirds to red-tail hawks to the critically endangered California condor.

Assembled by ornithologist Jesse Grantham and wildlife rehabilitator Dottie Combs, the "Birds of the Ojai Valley" exhibition opens in early August and runs through the end of the year. It includes photographs of our local feathered friends, artwork, a video and gorgeous mounted specimens. A full-size California condor mount soars over the exhibit with its nine and a half foot wingspan.

"Most of us really don't know much about the busy life of the birds that share our yards, neighborhoods, parks and wild lands, so becoming aware of this other world is a fascinating exercise" said Ms. Combs. "This exhibition will remind people of the wonders outside our doors and how we can all get along, making life a little easier for our wild neighbors."

You won't want to miss the Birds of the Ojai Valley Special Event on Sunday, August 23. Noted ornithologist Jesse Grantham will speak about local birds; 12 year old Dessi Sieburth, the American Birding Association's Young Birder of the Year will share some of his experiences; and Kim Stroud of the Ojai Raptor Center will bring live birds. The event is from 4 – 6pm and will be moderated by Mark Lewis.

The museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA. Regular museum admission is: adults \$5.00, children 6–18 \$1.00, children 5 and under free, and current 2015 members free. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Tours available by appointment. Free parking is available behind the museum, off Blanche Street.

For more information, call the museum at (805) 640-1390, ext. 203, e-mail ojaimuseum@sbcglobal.net, or visit the museum website at OjaiValleyMuseum.org.