

Los Angeles & Orange County
Western Snowy Plover
Monthly Report for January 2015
Beachwide Survey

Prepared for

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Los Angeles County

During January 2015 Los Angeles Audubon Volunteers detected 151 snowy plovers during a beachwide winter window survey in Los Angeles County between January 18-24,2015. This is much lower than the prior year (Table 1), and is the lowest total for January since surveys began in 2004 (Ryan and Vigallon 2009). Most notably, no snowy plovers were detected at Zuma Beach or Malibu. At Zuma there have been several human-influenced disturbances noted, including the placement of a volleyball court and the placement of a new berm within the traditional plover roosting area west/north of Lifeguard Tower 9. At both Zuma and Malibu beach erosion due to large waves have reduced the width of the beach at Zuma and removed the sand bar where the plovers had nested at Malibu.

Volunteers noted five vehicles that were moving over 10 mph out of a total of 51 encountered. Volunteers reported 70 dogs off leash on the beaches vs. 26 that were being walked on-leashes. Berms were noted at Zuma and Dockweiler.

Table 1. Number of Snowy Plovers Observed in Los Angeles County

Location	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	Notes
El Matador/ Lechuza	NS	7	
Zuma	73	0	Berms present
Dan Blocker	2	0	
Malibu	25	0	
Santa Monica	37	32	Life guard vehicle >10 mph
Venice South	4	9	15 off leash dogs
DSB 47	42	16	LACBH & Lifeguard vehicle >10 mph
DSB 58	0	25	Berms under construction
El Segundo/ Manhattan B	4	9	
Hermosa	60	46	Life guard vehicle >10 mph
Hermosa South		3	
Cabrillo B	7	4	
Total	254	151	

Orange County

In Orange County, Sea and Sage Audubon volunteers detected 195 plovers between January 18 and 25, 2015. This is similar to the numbers observed in January 2014 (203). The largest decline was seen at Balboa, where a new sidewalk was installed beside the roosting fence. Plovers were seen at Newport Beach and Doheney, where they had not been noted in recent years. The roost at Crystal Cove SB also continues to grow to 25 individuals. Additionally the roost at Trestles, which was located on San Onofre Beach in 2014 was in the Trestles area in 2015.

Volunteers observed one out of 21 vehicles reported exceeding 10 mph. However 146 off-leash dogs were counted during the surveys, most at Huntington Beach.

Table 2. Number of Snowy Plovers Observed in Orange County

Location	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	Notes
Seal Beach	0	0	Berm, Lifeguard truck over 10 mph
Surfside	10	16	Berm, Off-leash dog observed chasing plovers
Bolsa Chica SB	31	55	
Newport Beach	0	3	
Huntington SB	21	12	130+ off-leash dogs reported outside dog area. Dredging at the inlet
Balboa	125	17	New sidewalk near traditional roosting area
Crystal Cove	0	25	
Salt Creek	16	18	Heavy equipment moving sand from creek mouth.
Doheney	0	11	
Trestles/San Clemente SB	0	38	
Total	203	195	

*a total of 195 snowy plovers were detected at all beaches during January 2015 Beachwide Surveys.