

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

Prepared for

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Los Angeles County

In March 2015 Los Angeles Audubon Volunteers detected 126 snowy plovers during a beachwide survey in Los Angeles County between March 15 and 21, 2015. This is much similar to the numbers observed in March 2014 (Table 1). Previous surveys in the 2014-15 season have been lower than those in 2013-14. This is the first that was larger and may be due to migrant snowy plovers moving towards breeding areas elsewhere.

At Zuma the small flock of 10 plovers remains near the lagoon, none were observed in the traditional roost location. As in previous months, no snowy plovers were observed at Malibu Lagoon.

Volunteers noted one vehicle that were moving over 10 mph out of a total of 31 encountered. Volunteers reported 50 dogs off leash on the beaches vs. 20 that were being walked on-leashes.

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

Location	Mar 2014	Mar 2015	Notes
Zuma	0	10	AW:BY; Beach grooming equipment moving <15 mph
Malibu	0	0	
Santa Monica	25	38	GA:OY
Venice South	2	6	
DSB 47	36	9	
DSB 58	0	27	
El Segundo/ Manhattan B	0	2	
Hermosa	48	34	
Total	111	126	

Orange County

In Orange County, Sea and Sage Audubon volunteers detected 158 plovers between March 16 and 21, 2015. This is more than were observed in March 2014 (88). Fewer plovers were observed at Huntington State Beach as in previous surveys. The roost at Crystal Cover SB also continues to grow to 36 individuals. Additionally the roost at Trestles, which was located on San Onofre Beach in 2014 was in the Trestles area in 2015.

Of the 30 vehicles reported, none were noted exceeding 10 mph. However 70 off-leash dogs were counted during the surveys, most at Huntington City Beach. Six dead sea lions were reported along with two live ones on the beach.

Table 2. Number of Snowy Plovers Observed in Orange County

Location	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	Notes
Surfside	0	2	
Sunset Beach	NS	1	
Bolsa Chica SB	26	28	
Huntington CB	NS	4	
Huntington SB	57	6	
Balboa	5	19	nb:nb
Crystal Cove	NS	36	
Salt Creek	0	36	
Trestles/San Clemente SB	0	26	
Total	88	158	