California State Parks
Huntington State Beach Least Tern Natural Preserve
2013 Season Events (Logbook)

APRIL 10, 2013: first birds in town - Ross Griswold

24- Monitoring begins at Nat Preserve. Am. kestrel waiting on power pole.

25- Parks still working on fences

26- Kenyon sees great-tailed grackle and European starlings at restroom/palms. ~100 CLT

28- 400 of sanderlings, crows inside fencing

30- Crows inside, osprey, 1 WSP

MAY 1- 2: crows inside and eats something, 2 killdeer inside, crow chased off, no mating

3– 300 sanderlings

4- Docent Training Day with 20. 1 WSP and >100 CLT. “Red Bull gives you wings”

5- 7 crows and one GBH

6- 3 WSP “It' raining-what do we do?” 100 ea sanderlings and elegants. Crows and starlings inside.

7- Raven chased out. Sanderlings noted in breeding plumage. Crows inside.

8- 3 crows inside. CLT nest scraping. 1 WSP. Osprey nest with chick. “B-17 and B-24 flybys-rare birds.”

9- 1 WSP. Commercial fisherman said terns helped him find the fish, and gave thanks.

10- 6 WSP. 100+ CLT. Crows, one takes off with something the size of an acorn in mouth and raven. 500+W. sandpipers, and 10 semi-palmated plovers.

11- “Was that the bike path I was driving on?”

12- 6-100 CLT. 5 pairs dancing, scratching and mating.

13- 4 crows walking inside, and reported to Dave. Townsend’s warbler on fence. 10-100 CLT.

14- 4 nests located. 60 CLT. 6 scare crows placed in Preserve. “1 crow flew over NW corner, looked around, flew towards PCH in <a minute.” Yoga photo shoot on rocks.

15- ~200 CLT. Front Yard nest with eggs. 20 nests. No crows in Preserve.

17- Dead rock pigeons seen.
MAY - continued

18- Hardly any CLT to ~70. 1 WSP. 80% small fish and one with squid.

20- 150 CLT with 50-60 appeared to be nesting. Starlings are 2nd most predatory species-get em out.

21- Lots of nervous up-flights. All sea rocket removed. Crow takes egg.

23- 200 CLT yet in two hours, only two birds with fish, one was tiny.

24- Monitors count 28 nests, “not that great” compared to last year at this time.

25- 200 sanderlings. Several mating CLT.

28- Osprey active in area. Birds with larger fish, some seen flying out to ocean? “Help me Mama! The Speedo-Guy has returned!” Ross

29- Joan found a dead CLT on beach. 6 unmarked nests noted. Courting continues. Kestrel seen, no crows, small fish/some big fish brought in.

31- Kestrel chased out of Preserve. 111 Nests!

JUNE 1- 2 American robins on fencing. 92 surfers- college is out. Constant starlings. Slim dark falcon seen.

2- Peregrine seen leaving the preserve, and later circling. Male CLT offering squid to mate (ink on his chest).

3- Dead sea lion reported….and later buried by lifeguards. Birds going to and fro with wee fish.

4- 170 Nests, most with one, not two, eggs. Speedo Guy- should be illegal.

6- Powered paraglider flies over Preserve.

7- 200 Nests and 3 chicks. Many up-flights.

8- Walked to osprey nest site with two fledglings.

9- No sanderlings.

11- 277 Nests and 8 Chicks. 10AM peregrine takes pigeon at Brookhurst. Kestrel at Preserve.

12- Evidence of pieces of wood thrown at nests. Nests now abandoned in Front Yard. Terns are dive bombing nearby pedestrians.

17- Very quiet with several Popsicle sticks with no birds at them. Only one small fish seen.
JUNE - continued

20- No shorebirds. Many sitting on nests. 10 killdeer inside.

25- 312 Nests and 88 Chicks. "Can we walk between fences- photos look like the birds are in bird jail."

27- Killdeer pair with chick outside fencing.

JULY 1- 3 fledglings. 50 Junior Lifeguards were given a lecture on CLT.

2- 2 WSP. Monitor counts sound better than what's observed. Raptor takes one chick 1324pm. One crow walks inside. “Fewer adults than last week.”

4- Beaches packed.

5- Small graceful terns were called “sea swallows”... until the 18th century....Diana Wells

8- Killdeer chicks found outside Preserve- replaced.

11- 3 fishing boats out. “People are slobs.”

12- Big surf and big fish be carried. More activity today.

13- Fledglings flying in and outside the Preserve, and over the water.

14- 2 WSP

15- 11 WSP, with pictures.

16- Hawk took a chick.

17- Red tail hawk over Talbert Marsh. 12 fledglings counted and many small chicks.

19- Fledge wing beats faster and more erratic than adult. "Starlings seem to have disappeared."

Hooray!" Note: All light standards had been removed. Fledgling caught a fish in SA River.

20- One WSP. Black skimmer carrying fish through Preserve.

21- Four WSP, 4 sanderlings, 2 semipalmated plovers.

22- Colony winding down in general, but more active fish carries to fledglings. No shorebirds.

23- 1 WSP. CLT fledglings dive and float feeding in Santa Ana River pool.

24- 20 killdeer inside enclosure. Fledglings catching fish.
25- Much of the colony has already left.

26- 10 Adults bring fish across PCH. Oba sees peregrine take fledgling and eat it inside Preserve. 2 WSP.

27- Gene engages two volunteer cleanup groups, “in total oblivion to the birds.”

28- 2 WSP, 30 CLT, 8 fledglings, 56 sanderlings, semipalmated plovers, western sandpipers, willets, marbled godwits, whimbrels, and osprey.

29- Gull-billed tern fly by. Second year Pikei seen by Kate.

30- 2 WSP. The Preserve is “too quiet.”

31- Many flights out over water and back to beach.

AUGUST 1- Gull steals fish from fledgling.

2- No active nests. One lonely chick left inside colony. Remains of 6 fledglings, one adult, and two rock pigeons found. 43 black-bellied plovers and 45 killdeer in colony.

5- 2 WSP. 30 adult, 20 fledgling CLT. Most all birds are on beach or Santa Ana River area.

6- Am. Kestrel hunts and leaves with a ……..lizard.

7- 37 adults and 19 fledglings all on beach front.

9- Wandering tattler by the rocks at the shoreline. Holly sees one banded fledgling, and a “good graduating class.”

12- 4 adults, 4 fledglings and several shorebird species and 115 elegant terns.

15- Two monitors see zero CLT. **End of Season.**