2019 California Least Tern Season
A Chronology of Events

March
18-Site preparation started (vegetation clearing)
20-Site preparation complete

April
15- First Birds Back!
15-Chain link fence repair section #3 started and completed 4/22
17- 100+ birds recorded at HSB
18- 17 WSPL recorded on main beach area
28-2 WSPL eggs found, brought to Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center. Neither survive
29-Cold, wet rainy

May
1- Season Kick Off at Magnolia HQ
3- No nests inside, few scrapes. 4 WSPL front of preserve
4- Field training; 1 egg WSPL nest found in front of colony. Buffer area set up, ME placed.
6- Dredging of Talbert Channel and placement of sand begins
7- First day of nest monitoring; 9 CLTE nests
8- PEFA spotted taking adult tern
10-Rain, no nest monitoring. No incubation of WSPL egg observed.
13- WSPL nest determined abandoned and buried
14- 158 nests, 149 new.
15- PEFA spotted
17- 307 nests, 149 new
19- Rain
21- 369 nests, 62 new; OC CoastKeeper Cleanup, 2 egg WSPL nest discovered behind towers
3-4. Buffer area set up, ME placed.
22- Rain
23- WSPL nest hatched behind towers 3-4
24- 383 nests, 14 new; WSPL nest discovered inside CLTE Preserve; buffer area shifted closer to berm edge south of Tower 4
25- OC Snowy Plover Survey, 2 chicks and male reported. 2 WSPL chicks picked up and brought to lifeguard towers 2 and 3, respectively at approx. 1500 hours. After released below towers, chicks disappeared and only 1 relocated.
26- 1 WSPL chick and male observed.
27- Memorial Day; banded 1 WSPL chick with SD Zoo.
28- 400 nests, 17 new
29- Juvenile COHA spotted, failed hunting attempt
31- 417 nests, 17 new; 25 chicks; PEFA fly over; 3 eggs in WSPL nest

June
3- Male WESP and chick spotted in buffer near tower 4
4- 430 nests. 13 new, 149 chicks, 16 dead chicks; PEFA 3 hunting attempts observed, 2 successful
5- PEFA take of adult; WSPL male and chick spotted near tower 4
7- 449 nests, 19 new, 186 chicks, 32 dead chicks
11- 468 nests, 19 new, 106 chicks, 100 dead chicks; SD Zoo/Tom Ryan CLTE banding of 35 chicks, 12 with alphanumerics; WSPL nest hatched, 3 chicks banded.
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13- PEFA and COHA spotted but not successful hunting/stuck to pigeons
14- 474 nests, 6 new, 37 chicks, 10 feathered chicks, 54 dead; WSPL and three chicks spotted near front of preserve
18- 489 nests, 18 new, 14 chicks, 21 feathered, 17 pre fledge, 50 dead chicks; SD Zoo/Tom Ryan CLTE banding of 53 chicks, 30 with alphanumerics; new WSPL nest detected inside preserve.
21-496 nests, 7 new, 5 chicks, 26 feathered, 20 pre fledge, 3 older fledge, 13 dead chicks; PEFA fly over, OSPR collecting nesting material several times from within colony.
25- 504 nests, 8 new, 4 chicks, 34 feathered, 9 pre fledge, 8 younger fledge, 3 older fledge, 13 dead chicks; SD Zoo/Tom Ryan CLTE banding of 44 chicks, 32 with alphanumerics; WSPL nest 2 inside preserve hatched, 2 chicks; one chick banded.
28- Fledgling counts only: 1 chick, 3 feather chicks, 8 pre fledge, 25 younger fledge, 3 older fledge; male WSPL and chick seen near tower 4; Unbanded WSPL chick found near gate, moved to front of preserve where it passed through fence and was last seen near Santa Ana River.

July
2- 512 nests, 8 new, 4 chicks, 14 feathered chicks, 17 pre fledge, 11 young fledge, 2 older fledge, 8 dead chicks, 11 fledges in front of colony; 1 dead WSPL chick recovered from inside colony.
5- Fledgling count only: 1 feathered chick, 42 younger fledge, 14 older fledge; COHA unsuccessful hunting attempt.
9- 516 nests, 4 new nests, 7 chicks, 7 feathered chicks, 4 pre fledge, 7 younger fledge, 16 older fledge, 5 dead chicks
12- Fledgling count only: 38 younger fledge, 20 older fledge, 2 pre fledge, 1 feathered chick
16- 519 nests, 3 new, 2 chicks, 1 feathered chick, 1 pre fledge, 1 younger fledge, 2 older fledge, 6 dead chicks, 1 dead fledge, 23 fledges on beach
19- Fledgling count only: 1 pre fledge, 20 younger fledge, 10 older fledge. 27 fledges counted on beach.
23- 520 nests, 1 new, 1 feathered chick, 1 pre fledge, 3 younger fledge, 5 older fledge, 1 dead fledge. Very quiet at colony, 21 fledges on beach
30- 523 nests, 3 new, 1 older fledge, 3 dead chicks. Observed chicks being fed by adults.

August
6- 524 nests, 1 new, 1 younger fledge, 1 dead chick. Only 3 CLTE observed.
12- Season declared OVER

Season Preliminary Numbers
Total 422 nests*
340 were successful
Only 1 predated
2 were unknown outcome
39 incubated to term, but failed to hatch
39 abandoned prior to incubation term
1 damaged (natural causes)
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740 eggs
600 eggs hatched (hatch rate of 81%, which is good)
2 died hatching
4 damaged (natural causes)
1 predated
3 unknown
88 non-viable
42 abandoned pre-term

* Nest data is not fully entered yet; this was totals as of 8/19/19

**Acronyms**

HSB- Huntington State Beach
WSPL- Western Snowy Plover
CLTE- California Least Tern
AMCR- American Crow
PEFA- Peregrine Falcon
COHA- Coopers Hawk
AMKE- American Kestrel
OSPR- Osprey