

2009 California Least Tern Update

Provided by Robert Patton

6-24-09

SDIA-LF

both peregrines on FAA tower adjacent to site

6-23-09

SDIA-LF

less than 20 CLT

33+ chicks seen

2+ fledglings

both adult peregrines flushed from FAA tower adjacent to site on our arrival - female carrying large CLT chick/fledgling

D Street Fill

22 CLT

128 total nests, up to 6 active, 2 new but 1 appears abandoned

12 chicks observed, 2 new

5 fledglings

3 dead chicks, no visible trauma

2 GBT repeatedly hunting site, female harrier along S edge site, immature harrier to S, 20 crows to SE

CVWR

20 CLT

31 total nests, up to 10 active

5-6 chicks seen, 3 new

3 fledglings

6/22/09

SDIA-LF

54+ CLT

133 total nests, 31-39 active, 2 new

42+ chicks seen

2 fledglings

crow along Harbor Dr, female adult peregrine on FAA tower adjacent site then hunting repeatedly low along chick barrier, later adult male circling low over site, later pair with fledgling visible to E at Double Tree building

2 chick barrier stakes broken near taxiway delta & CG junction - requested repair
repaired chick barrier fabric torn & loose in 2 spots in oval 02-S

6/16/2009

SDIA - LF

75+ CLT

130 total nests, 56-59 active, 4 new (but site not thoroughly searched)

53+ chicks seen, 25 new (but site not thoroughly searched)

1 adult observed taken from ground by peregrine falcon & carried to Double Tree Hotel downtown, at least 2 other peregrines & vacated nest visible on building

D St Fill

44-50+ CLT

126 total nests, 17 active

18-30 chicks seen, 9 new

female kestrel in SW site, flew to S; male peregrine briefly E of site

female harrier hunting S edge site & marsh to S (had been observed to take 3 CLT chicks yesterday between 837 & 907, too far to discern but appeared to possibly take 3 more before & after)
GBT hunting throughout but no CLTs seen taken

CVWR

18-26 CLT

29 total nests, 16 active, 1 new

6-7+ chicks seen

(GBT nest on jetty has both eggs started in 1st stages of hatching)

6/9/09

SDIA-LF

70-100+ CLTs (very flighty as if raptor in area)

125 total nests, 92 active, 7 new

29+ chicks

2 dead chicks - no visible trauma, 1 adhered to desiccated eggshell

reburied bottom edge of chick barrier exposed by jetblast along 30 m of taxiway bravo edge NW of bravo/delta junction

(did not check oval 02 & 04 nests due to lack of time - plan to return Wed afternoon)

D St Fill

80-100+ CLTs

125 total nests, 41 active, 4 new

36-46+ chicks (including near access road N central site, NW corner, & SW edge)

2 dead chicks - no visible trauma

2 depredated adults - peregrine tracks, & adult male peregrine stooped across site & unsuccessfully diving at chick

raven & harrier to S, crow to N

CVWR

26+ CLTs

26 total nests, 17 active, 3 new

9-12+ chicks

depredated Forster's tern adult among CLT nests - peregrine

W gull in flight observed to take FT chick from nest on NW dike

GBT still with 2-egg nest on SW jetty

6/4/09 - Nest numbers at the Salt Works:

endangered birds

3 total Western Snowy Plover nests

42 total California Least Tern nests

72 total Gull Bill Terns nests

108 Caspian tern nests, 34 with chicks)

167 royal tern nests, 4 chicks

9769 elegant tern nests, 8946 nests with eggs, 823 chicks

21 Forster's tern nests

88 black skimmer nests

6/2/2009

SDIA-LF

100-118 CLT

113 total nests, 109 active, 19 new

5 new chicks, 3 broods

peregrine circling low at 16:07 - all CLTs flocking high & out over bay

noted chick barrier loose at NW end of oval 01-S (maintenance staff should be okay repairing since nests are over 30 yd away)

D St Fill

100+ CLT

119 total nests, up to 100 active, 4 new

43-66 new chicks (36 broods), 1 possibly sick

peregrine E of site, harrier along S site

CVWR

15+ CLT

21 total nests, 20-21 active, 5 new

1 new chick

mid-season Forster's tern survey - 181 total nests, including 14 on NE dike, 11 NE central, 13 NW central, 29 NW dike, 114 on SW jetty

4 gadwall nests

1 gull-billed tern nest on SW jetty - 1st record on W coast outside of saltworks (& Salton Sea)

5/26/2009

SDIA-LF

85+ CLTs

87 total nests, 85-86 active, 26 new

1 egg of 2 at nest 24 in grid 1A missing, other egg okay, nest incubated, no clear tracks

killdeer with at least 2 chicks in oval 02-S

D St Fill

90+ CLTs

113 total nests, 112 active, 30 new

RM reported peregrine over earlier; large dog tracks under gate & along NE road & back, harrier to S over Gunpowder Pt, GBT N-S over site with large unidentified prey item

willow flycatcher along E edge of site

CVWR

22+ CLTs

15 total/active nests, 4 new

noted game trail/tunnel in marsh off SW edge of site - no clear tracks - rat? rabbit?

mallard with 4-egg nest in marsh W of SW end of site

high tide had reached into NW edge of SW end of site

Forster's tern nest survey to be conducted next week - noted at least 9 on NE dike, 3 W central, 12 NW, & 84 on SW jetty

5/19/2009

SDIA - LF

30+ CLTs (notably low number relative to number of nests)

45 total nests, 29 new, including 27 nests E oval 03-S, 9 nests W oval 03-S, 7 nests 04-S, 2 nests 02-S

noted storm drain cover in oval 01-S loose & pulled back from half of drain - reset but needs additional large gravel added to edges to prevent being blown by jetblast

D St Fill

2 WSPs foraging on NW flats

90-115 CLTs

83 total nests, 29 new (82 active, 1 previously abandoned)

harrier hunting site, coyote tracks throughout SW site & along tideline W of site

removed 3 ft gopher snake from within SW nest area - relocated N of channel to NE of site

CVWR

10-14 CLTs

10 total nests, 6 new

harrier hunting E site

dead rat in 14A (dropped by raptor?)

5/10/2009

50+ CLT

30 total/active nests, 29 new (more possible since site not thoroughly searched)

cat tracks at gate & in E site just SW of log box (circled tracks in sand)

heard what sounded like ground squirrel alarm call from along bank in grid 8-9A but did not see

12:42 - all CLTs up & mobbing raven as it flew low S-N across central site

13:11 - raven circled me as I left site then landed along road in NE site