



SANTA MONICA BAYKEEPER

Beachkeeper Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Target Bird Species

<http://www.sccf.org/birds.htm>



California Least Tern

Sterna antillarum brownii

Family: Laridae **Size:** L 9"

Description: The smallest tern, mostly white with a black cap and pale gray back and wings. Orange-yellow bill with a black tip and orange-yellow legs. They are ground nesting birds and usually nest in colonies on sandy beaches adjacent to river mouths or estuaries.

Habitat: Sandy and pebbly beaches along the coast. They are found along the central and southern California coast during their breeding season, which runs from April to August.

Call: Sharp *killick* or *kip-kip-kip-kiddeek*

<http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/browse.htm>



Western Snowy Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus
Family: Charadriidae **Size:** L 6 ¼"

Description: A small whitish plover with pale brown upperparts, dark or grayish legs, and slender black bill. Also has small black mark on each side of breast. This species is often seen scurrying a short distance and stopping ("run and peck" foraging) constantly or hanging out in holes in the sand.

Habitat: The Pacific Coast population breed and make their nests in barren and scattered vegetated sand beaches.

Call: A *chu-we* or *o-wee-ah*.

<http://bcren.home.att.net>



California Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis
Family: Pelecanidae

Size: L 48" Wingspan up to 7 feet

Description: Large, stocky, grayish-brown seabird with a light head, brown neck, long pouched bill. Immature birds are mostly brown above with white underparts. They are often seen in flight or resting with their bill on their breast.

Habitat: Coastal areas. Breed on the Channel Islands and for the last two years at Salton Sea.

Call: Mostly silent, occasional low grunts on nesting grounds.