

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*

Wilson's Plover is locally common in Baja California Sur but only a rare vagrant along the Pacific coast north of the international border. Of nine well-supported records from California, four are from San Diego County, in April, May, and June. All these Wilson's Plovers were on sandy beaches.

Migration: Ingersoll (1895) found California's first Wilson's Plover at Pacific Beach (Q7) 24 June 1894, collecting it 29 June (MVZ 31920). One at the Tijuana River mouth (V10) 9 April 1991 (D. Parker-Chapman) and one at Delta Beach, Silver Strand (T9), 27 April–1 May 1998 (E. Copper) were both photographed (Heindel and Garrett 1995, Erickson and Hamilton 2001). The California Bird Records Committee also accepted a sight record from North Island Naval Air Station (S8) 5 May 2000 (R. T. Patton, McKee and Erickson 2002). A few other published sightings lack details, though the one by Ingersoll (1918) at Imperial Beach (V10) 11 May 1918 was likely valid.

Intensive monitoring of Least Terns and Snowy Plovers



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

along San Diego County's beaches accounts for the apparently increased frequency of Wilson's Plover here.

Taxonomy: California's specimen of Wilson's Plover is *C. w. beldingi* (Ridgway, 1919), resident along the Pacific coast from Baja California south to Peru.