

Checklist of Birds of Ballona Valley, Los Angeles County, California



Long-billed Curlew (above), an occasional transient in the Ballona Valley

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please report any unusual sightings to above address

c. 320 Species

SEASON

P = Perennial (year round)
 W = Winter
 S = Summer
 T = Transient
 (s = spring; f = fall)
 V = Vagrant (1 or 2 records total)

ABUNDANCE

A = Abundant (hard to miss)
 C = Common (seen daily)
 FC = Fairly Common (usually in small #s)
 U = Uncommon (missed as often as seen)
 O = Occasional (usually missed, but annual)
 R = Rare (seen every few years)
 Cs = Casual (few records; not regular)
 V = Vagrant (year of occurrence follows)

Ext. = Extirpated (formerly present; unlikely to occur again except as a Vagrant)

"Status?" = Status unclear

The Ballona Valley refers to the Ballona Wetlands and adjacent bluffs and residential areas. The Ballona Wetlands are the remaining portion of what was once a vast estuary, a place where salt water from the Pacific Ocean meets fresh water from Ballona Creek. The area's habitats include the last intact coastal salt marsh in Los Angeles County, as well as other habitats such as coastal bluff scrub, freshwater marsh, coastal dunes, and willow thickets.

Red-throated Loon	W/Ts:U	Snow Goose	W/T:Cs	Rough-l. Hawk Vagrant (1978, 1982)
Pacific Loon	W/Ts:U; S:R	Ross' Goose	W:R	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Common Loon	W/Ts:FC; S:O	Cackling Goose	T:Cs	W:U
Pied-billed Grebe	P:C	Canada Goose	W/Tf:O	Cooper's Hawk
Horned Grebe	W:U	Brant	Ts:R;	P:U
Red-necked Grebe	W:R	W/S:Cs		Red-shouldered Hawk
Eared Grebe	W:FC; S:R	Tundra Swan	V (1994, 2004)	W/T:R
Western Grebe	W:C	Wood Duck	P:R	American Kestrel
Clark's Grebe	W:U	Gadwall	W/T:FC	P:FC
Northern Fulmar	Status?	American Wigeon	W/T:C	Merlin
Black-v. Shearwater	Status?	Mallard	P:C	W/T:U
Sooty Shearwater	Status?	Blue-winged Teal	P:U	Peregrine Falcon
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	V (1993)	Cinnamon Teal	W/T:C; S:U	P:U
Leach's Storm-Petrel	V (1981)	Northern Shoveler	W:C; Tf:FC	Prairie Falcon
Ashy Storm-Petrel	V (1934, 1969)	Northern Pintail	W:FC; T:O	Tf:Cs
Brandt's Cormorant	W:FC	Green-winged Teal	W/T:C	California Quail
Double-cr. Cormorant	W:A; S:U	Canvasback	W/Tf:R	Ext.
Pelagic Cormorant	W/T:FC	Redhead	W/T:O	Black Rail
Mag. Frigatebird	S:Cs	Ring-necked Duck	W:U	Ext.
Brown Booby	V (2000)	Greater Scaup	W:U	Clapper Rail
Am. White Pelican	W:R	Lesser Scaup	W:C	Ext.
Brown Pelican	S/Tf/W:A; Ts:FC	Harlequin Duck	W/S:Cs	Virginia Rail
American Bittern	Ext.	Surf Scoter	W/Ts:C;	T:U; W:R
Least Bittern	P:O	S:Cs		Sora
Great Blue Heron	P:C	White-winged Scoter	W:R; S:Cs	T/W:FC
Great Egret	W/T:C; S:U	Black Scoter	W:R; S:Cs	Common Moorhen
Snowy Egret	P:C	Long-tailed Duck	W/Ts:R	P:O
Little Blue Heron	T:Cs	Bufflehead	W:C	American Coot
Tricolored Heron	V (1972, 1981)	Common Goldeneye	W/Ts:O	P:A
Reddish Egret	V (1990)	Hooded Merganser	W:O	Sandhill Crane
Cattle Egret	Tf/W:O; Ts:R	Common Merganser	W:Cs	Ext.
Green Heron	P:FC	Red-br. Merganser	W:C; T/S:Cs	Pacific Golden-Plover
BC Night-Heron	P:FC	Ruddy Duck	P:FC	Ext.
White-faced Ibis	Tf:U; W/Ts:R	Osprey	Tf:U;	Snowy Plover
Roseate Spoonbill	V (1973)	White-tailed Kite	Tf/W:FC;	W/T:O
Turkey Vulture	T:U	Bald Eagle	Ext.	Semipalmated Plover
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Ext.	Northern Harrier	Tf:O	W/T:FC
Gr. White-fr. Goose	T:Cs	Swainson's Hawk	V (1998)	W/T:FC
		Red-tailed Hawk	P:FC	W/T:FC
		Ferruginous Hawk	W:R	W/T:C
				W/T:C
				W/T:U

Birds Continued:

Red Knot	W/T:O	<i>Yellow-ch. Parakeet</i> P:R	Horned Lark	Ext.	Ovenbird	V (2002)
Sanderling	W/T:C	<i>Rose-ringed Parakeet</i>	Purple Martin	T:Cs	No. Waterthrush	T:Cs
Semipalmated Sand.		P:R	Tree Swallow	T:C; W:U; S:R	MacGillivray's Warbler	T:O
	Tf:R	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Violet-green Swallow		Common Yellowthroat	P:C
Western Sandpiper	T:C; W:U	V (1999)		Ts:R	Wilson's Warbler	T:C
Least Sandpiper	W/T:C	Greater Roadrunner	No. Rough-w. Swallow	T:C	Yellow-breasted Chat	
Baird's Sandpiper	Tf:R	Ext.	Bank Swallow	T:O		T:R
Pectoral Sandpiper	Tf:R	Barn Owl	Cliff Swallow	Ts/S:A; Tf:U	Summer Tanager	V (1987)
Rock Sandpiper	V (1958-1967)	Great Horned Owl	Barn Swallow	T/S:A; W:O	Scarlet Tanager	V (2003)
Dunlin	W/Ts:U	P:R	Bushtit	P:C	Western Tanager	T:FC; W:Cs
Stilt Sandpiper	V (1959, 1976)	Burrowing Owl	Red-br. Nuthatch	W:Cs	Green-tailed Towhee	T:Cs
Ruff	V (1975, 1993)	Short-eared Owl	White-br. Nuthatch	V (2002)	Spotted Towhee	W/T:O
Short-billed Dowitcher	T:FC	Long-eared Owl	Rock Wren	Ext.	California Towhee	P:FC
Long-billed Dowitcher	W/T:C	V (1929, 1934)	Bewick's Wren	Tf/W:O	American Tree Sparrow	V (2003)
Wilson's Snipe	T/W:U	Lesser Nighthawk	House Wren	Tf:C; W:U	Brewer's Sparrow	T:R
Wilson's Phalarope	Tf:O; Ts:R	Common Poorwill	Marsh Wren	Tf/W:FC	Chipping Sparrow	T:O
Red-necked Phalarope	T:U	Black Swift	Golden-cr. Kinglet	V (2000)	Clay-colored Sparrow	V (1996)
Red Phalarope	W:R	White-throated Swift	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	W:FC	Vesper Sparrow	Tf:R
Pomarine Jaeger	Status?	Vaux's Swift	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	T/W:FC	Lark Sparrow	Tf:O; W:R
Parasitic Jaeger	Status?	Broad-b. Humm. V (1977-78; 1996)	Calif. Gnatcatcher	Ext.	Sav. Sparrow (<i>migratory</i>)	W/T:A
Laughing Gull	Ts:Cs	Black-ch. Humm. Status?	Mountain Bluebird	V (1985)	"Belding's" Sav. Sparrow	P:FC
Franklin's Gull	Tf:R; S:Cs	Anna's Hummingbird	Swainson's Thrush	Ts:U; Tf:R	"Large-b." Sav. Sparrow	W:R
Little Gull	V (1991)	P:C	Hermit Thrush	W:U	Grasshopper Sparrow	V (2004)
Bonaparte's Gull	Ts/W:C; S:R	Costa's Hummingbird	American Robin	T/W:O	Fox Sparrow	W/T:O
Heermann's Gull	S/Tf/W:A; Ts:U	W/T:Cs	Wren	Ext.	Song Sparrow	P:C
Mew Gull	W:U	Rufous Hummingbird	Northern Mockingbird	P:C	Lincoln's Sparrow	T:C; W:FC
Ring-billed Gull	W:A	T:R	Sage Thrasher	T:Cs	Swamp Sparrow	W/T:R
California Gull	P:C	Allen's Hummingbird	Brown Thrasher	V (1968)	White-thr. Sparrow	W:Cs
Herring Gull	W:U	P:C	California Thrasher	Ext.	White-cr. Sparrow	W:A
Thayer's Gull	W:U	Belted Kingfisher	<i>European Starling</i>	P:A	Golden-cr. Sparrow	Ts/W:FC
Western Gull	S/Tf/W:A; Ts:FC	Acorn Woodpecker	Red-throated Pipit	V (2003)	Dark-eyed Junco	W:U
Glaucous-winged Gull	W:FC	V (2003)	American Pipit	W:C	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	T:Cs
Glaucous Gull	V (1949, 1986)	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Cedar Waxwing	T/W:U	Black-headed Grosbeak	T:FC; S:R
Sabine's Gull	T:Cs	Red-naped Sapsucker	Phainopepla	T:Cs	Blue Grosbeak	T:O; S:R
Black-legged Kittiwake	W/T:O	W:R	Tennessee Warbler	V (2000)	Lazuli Bunting	T:U
Caspian Tern	P:FC	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Orange-cr. Warbler	T:C; W:FC	Indigo Bunting	T:Cs
Royal Tern	W/T:U	P:O	Nashville Warbler	Ts:FC; Tf:U	Bobolink	T:R
Elegant Tern	T/S:A	Downy Woodpecker	Virginia's Warbler	T:Cs	Red-winged Blackbird	P:C
Common Tern	Tf:U; Ts:R	P:R	Lucy's Warbler	V (2003)	Tricolored Blackbird	T:Cs
Forster's Tern	P:FC	No. "Red-sh." Flicker	Yellow Warbler	T:C	Western Meadowlark	W/T:C; S:U
Least Tern	S:FC	W/T:FC	Chestnut-s. Warbler			
Black Tern	T:Cs	No. "Yellow-sh." Fl. V (1982, 2003)		T:Cs	Yellow-h. Blackbird	Ts:FC; Tf:R
Black Skimmer	Ts:U; Tf:R	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler	V (1981)	Brewer's Blackbird	W/T:U
Common Murre	T/W:Cs	T:O	YR "Audubon's" Warbler	W:A	Great-tailed Grackle	P:FC
Pigeon Guillemot	V (1980, 2002)	Western Wood-Pewee	YR "Myrtle" Warbler	W:O	Brown-headed Cowbird	S:FC
Marbled Murrelet	W:R	T:O	B.-t. Gray Warbler	T/W:U	W:R	
Craveri's Murrelet	V (1978)	Willow Flycatcher	Townsend's Warbler	Ts:FC;	Bullock's Oriole	Ts/S:U; Tf/W:R
Ancient Murrelet	V (1954, 1980)	T:FC	Tf/W:O	Ts:FC;	Baltimore Oriole	V (2003)
Cassin's Auklet	V (1979, 1997)	Least Flycatcher	Hermit Warbler	Ts:O;	Hooded Oriole	Ts/S:C
<i>Rock Pigeon</i>	P:A	Ts:Cs	Tf/W:Cs		Scott's Oriole	V (1975)
<i>Spotted Dove</i>	P:R	Hammond's Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler		House Finch	P:A
White-winged Dove	Tf:R	Ts:O;	V (1981)		Pine Siskin	T:R
Mourning Dove	P:A	Tf:R	Prairie Warbler	V (1972, 1974)	Lesser Goldfinch	P:U
		Dusky Flycatcher			Lawrence's Goldfinch	Tf:Cs
		T:R	Palm Warbler	Tf:O;	American Goldfinch	T/W:U
		T:R; W:Cs	Ts/W:R		<i>House Sparrow</i>	P:A
		Pacific-slope Fly	Blackpoll Warbler	Tf:Cs	<i>Orange Bishop</i>	P:FC
		T:FC	Black-and-wh. Warbler	T:Cs		
		Black Phoebe	American Redstart	V (1975)		
		P:C				
		Say's Phoebe				
		T/W:C; S:R				
		Ash-throated Fly				
		T:FC				
		V (2003)				
		Cassin's Kingbird				
		P:U				
		Western Kingbird				
		T:C; S:R				
		Eastern Kingbird				
		T:Cs				
		Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				
		V (1949)				
		Loggerhead Shrike				
		T/W:U				
		Bell's Vireo				
		T:Cs				
		Cassin's Vireo				
		Ts:O; Tf:R				
		Hutton's Vireo				
		Ext.				
		Warbling Vireo				
		Ts:FC; Tf:O				
		Western Scrub-Jay				
		P:FC				
		American Crow				
		P:A				
		Common Raven				
		P:C				

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