

**Endangered & Imperiled Species Documented in Recent Years at the  
Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve**

**Federal Endangered Species List – [E] = Endangered [T] = Threatened**

**1. Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus* [E]**  
(resident songbird) nesting



**2. Coastal California Gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica* [T]**  
(migratory songbird) nesting at nearby Playa del Rey Dunes at LAX



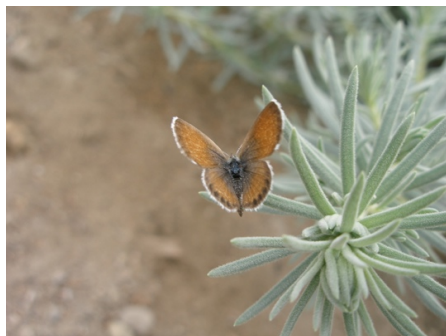
**3. El Segundo Blue Butterfly *Euphilotes battoides allyni* [E]**  
reproducing in dunes at BWER;  
also reproducing in PDR Dunes at LAX



**4. California Least Tern *Sterna antillarum browni* [E]** (migratory shorebird – migrates from Guatemala and southern Mexico; nests on nearby Venice Beach in specially fenced preserve; feeds on fish in the shallow water sloughs and in Ballona Creek; mating documented on salt pannes)



**5. California Sea-Lite – *Suaeda californica* [E]**  
Growing in Area B, south of Ballona Creek



**6. Western Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus nivosus* [T]** – nesting at nearby Dockweiler Beach; sheltering at BWER salt panne



**7. Light-footed Ridgway's Rail (Light-footed Clapper Rail) *Rallus longirostris levipes* – [E]**  
Female for at least last 2 years at freshwater marsh on edge of BWER (land owned by State Lands Commission)



**State of California Endangered Species List - [E] = Endangered [T] = Threatened**

1. **Belding's Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi* [E]  
(resident songbird) (nesting)



2. **Least Bell's Vireo** *Vireo bellii pusillus* [E] (resident songbird) nesting



3. **Light-footed Ridgway's Rail (Light-footed Clapper Rail)** *Rallus longirostris levipes* – [E]  
female 2 years at freshwater marsh on edge of BWER (land owned by State Lands Commission)



**Imperiled Species - Special Status**

Treated as if on endangered species list by state officials due to settlement agreement with CA Native Plant Society or Center for Biologist Diversity; listing package submitted for endangered species list; **Species of Special Concern**, or on other special status State of California lists

1. Lewis' Evening-Primrose *Camissoniopsis lewisii*
2. Wandering Skipper Butterfly *Panoquina errans*
3. South Coast Marsh Vole *Microtus californicus stephensi*
4. Silvery Legless Lizard *Anniella stebbinsi*
5. Southern Tarplant *Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*
6. Southern California Ornate Shrew *Sorex ornatus salicornicus*
7. Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*
8. California Horned Lizard *Phrynosoma blainvillii blainvillii* (Gray)
9. Western Sand Spurrey *Spergularia canadensis*
10. Southern Marsh Harvest Mouse *Reithrodontomys megalotis limicola*
11. Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*
12. Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*
13. Double-crested Cormorant (breeding) *Phalacrocorax auritus*
14. Oregon Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes graminea affinis*
15. Wigeon Grass (rare SAV) *Ruppia maritima*
16. Spiral Wigeon Grass (rare SAV) *Ruppia cirrhosa*
17. Vernal Barley *Hordeum intercedens*
18. South Coast Branching Phacelia *Phacelia ramosissima*
19. Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*
20. Orcutt's Yellow Pincushion *Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *orcuttiana*
21. Slender Arrowgrass *Triglochin concinnum*
22. Ballona Wallflower *Erysimum suffrutescens* (type locality-Ballona)
23. Alkali Barley *Hordeum depressum*
24. Woolly Sea-Lite *Suaeda taxifolia*
25. Slender Salamander (entire pop. Less than 1,000) *Batrachoseps attenuatus attenuatus* (Eschscholtz)
26. Ballona California Kingsnake (special markings) *Lampropeltis getula californiae*
27. Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*
28. Western Meadowlark *Stumella neglecta*
29. Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
30. Great Blue Heron (breeding) *Ardea herodias*
31. Great Egret (breeding) *Ardea alba*
32. Snowy Egret (breeding) *Egretta thula*
33. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
34. Western Pony's-Foot (*Dichondra occidentalis*)
35. Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*
36. Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*



*Other Noted &/or Protected Species\**

1. **California Brown Pelican** – *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus* - feeds and rests in Ballona Creek channel – de-listed from federal endangered species list in 2009, but still being watched by officials, biologists
2. **American Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus anatum* – 3 foraging at Ballona in 2017; – **de-listed from federal endangered species list in 2009, but still being watched by officials, biologists** – CA “FULLY PROTECTED SPECIES”
3. **White-tailed Kite** – *Elanus leucurus* resident in the Ballona Valley/nests in nearby neighborhood trees/forages in grasslands at Ballona; has its own law in California – CA “FULLY PROTECTED SPECIES”
4. **Palmer’s Goldenbush - *Ericameria palmeri var. palmeri*** – CNPS 1B1 list – State of California: imperiled S2
5. **Numerous Lichens that have recently been documented and are awaiting protected status.**
6. **AND** – MANY, MANY insect and spider species, including numerous native ant populations, dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies and so much more that is not being accounted for or dismissed as “they will come back” – well, these natural heritage species will not all come back – and we are losing them fast, as habitat is destroyed for urbanization and extractive industries

\*Note: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects many of the bird species at Ballona not mentioned here or listed under “Other Noted Species.” **More than 200 bird species have been documented at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.**

