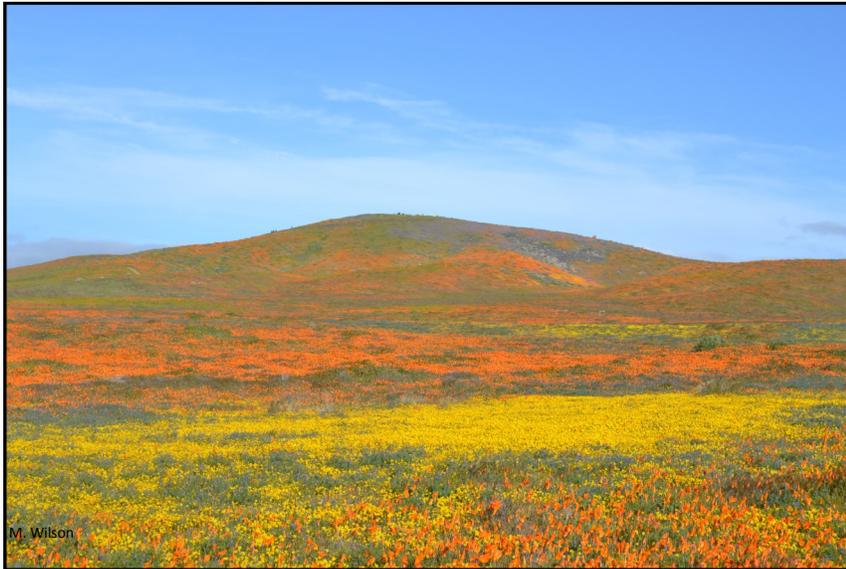


# FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

By Mary Wilson

April 14, 2019

## Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve



This year is an outstanding year for the California poppies and goldfields at the reserve. However, if you look along side the trails you will find many other wildflowers such as: filaree, fiddleneck, blue dicks/wild hyacinth, cream cups, silver puffs, fringe pod, wild cucumber, slender keel fruit, lacy phacelia, Mojave sun cups, evening snow, tumble mustard, hairy lotus, freckled milkvetch, Desert parsley, and fringed onion. There have been a few wildflowers that are having a very good year and are in abundance and they are:



Pygmy-leaved lupine. This little plant will only be 4 to 10-inches tall when fully grown. The flowers are small and the leaves are so many that you hardly notice them. They are more like a ground cover of blue-green and can be overlooked quite easily.



Forget-me-nots are everywhere on the reserve. There are more than one kind of these flowers of the Borage Family. The Western or Popcorn flower are the largest and the flower is about 1/4-inch across. There are also other forget-me-nots that have flowers that are only about 1/8-inch across.



Owl's cover likes wet years like we have had this year. The flowers are a maroon color and if you look closely you will see the white "owl's eyes" looking at you. This year I have found them on the west side of the reserve, the Poppy Trail North Loop, Poppy Trail South Loop, and the Antelope Trail South Loop on the east side.

## Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park



The Joshua trees have had a very good year producing the flowers. The flowers are now starting to produce the seed pods. Other wildflowers are blooming and they include: goldfields, tidy tips, comet blazing stars, Mojave sun cups, Desert sun cups, fiddleneck, linear-leaf goldenbush, comb-bur, filaree, blue sage, silver puffs, Davy gilia, blue dick, wild cucumber, bladder pod and rock cress.



Rock Cress



Tidy Tip



Comet Blazing Star

## Gorman—Gorman Post Road

The hillsides are not covered in solid colors of poppies and goldfields. It looks like the perennial poppies have been planted in bouquets and the purple lupine placed by them. Other flowers along the road are: White lupine, coreopsis, purple lupine, globe gilia, pygmy-leaf lupine, hairy lotus, monkey flowers, bladder pod, linear-leaf lupine and lacy phacelia. Also spotted two egrets—they migrate through Gorman heading west.



## Saddleback Butte State Park



Saddleback Butte State Park, the Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Avenue M and 170th Street East and the east side of the Antelope Valley is a study in many shades of yellow. The goldfields blanket large areas and there are coreopsis, Desert dandelion, sun cups, and Desert candles. For other colors there are Davy gilia, Fremont pincushions, lacy phacelia and the Joshua trees have their white flowers.



Coreopsis



Goldfields & Sun Cups



Desert dandelion

### **The California Poppy (*Escholzia californica*) became the state flower in 1903.**

- April 5, 2003 – at the California Poppy Centennial Celebration, Dorothy Bolt, representing the Wildflower Preservation Foundation, presented a bust of Jane Pinheiro to the State to be placed in the Jane Pinheiro Interpretive Center.
- April 6—California Poppy Day.
- April 9, 1960 – Joshua Tree State Park, later named Saddleback Butte, is dedicated.
- April 17, 1982 – the Jane S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center building was completed, dedicated, and opened for visitors at the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve.
- April 24, 1976 – Herbert Rhodes, Director of the California Department of Parks and Recreation accepted a deed to wildflower land from Jane Pinheiro and William Penn Mott, Jr., California Parks Foundation. This event was when the State Parks Foundation officially turned the land over to State of California. Jane was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the dedication and Milt Stark was Master of Ceremonies at the luncheon that followed.

## BURROWING OWLS

The fledgling burrowing owls in the photos below are about two to three months old.



They still stay close to the habitat and a parent.

These young fledglings still have their down feathers and have only the barred feathers on their wings. They are developing the white eyebrows and chin patterns.



Even though they still stay together they practice with each other in flapping wings and trying to learn all that is required to fly.

As they grow the wing feathers they exercise their wings to get them strong enough to fly. They practice day and night.

