

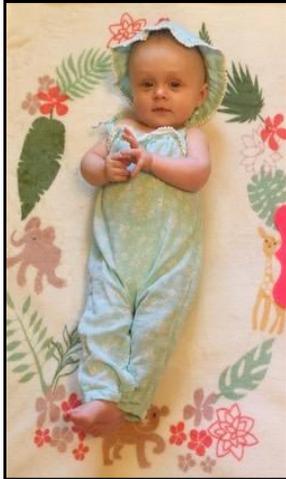
# FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

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May 9, 2020



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With COVID-19 still around I asked if Amelia (who made me a Great Aunt in 2019) if she would help us remember some of the rules:



Wash your hands.



6-foot Social Distance



Stay Home



Wear a mask when you go out

## Signs of the Time:



Also closed:



### Notes From The Field

**170th St. West**— a nice showing of poppies and Desert dandelions.

Went to **Apollo Park** on Tuesday, May 5th and it was open. Online it states they will open on May 9th. So good to walk the trail and see the birds.



*Poppies & Desert Dandelion*



**Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland State Park**—there were no signs saying it was closed, so I walked one of the trails and was wonderfully surprised to see the following flowers in bloom: tidy tips, blue sage, chia, goldfields blue dick, beavertail cactus are starting to bloom, comet blazing star, filaree, Mojave sun cups, male Mormon tea has catkins, Scarlet bugler, Parry gilia, rubber rabbitbrush and the Elderberry tree has flowers.

*Scarlet Bugler*

**Portal Ridge Wildlife Area**—saw almost all the flowers from the car. Flowers in bloom are: California primrose, tidy tips, goldfields, Desert dandelion, Parry gilia, Acton encelia (brittlebush), lupine, Mojave sun cups, yerba santa, Fremont pincushions, yellow pincushions, coreopsis, rubber rabbitbrush, a few poppies, chia, brown-eyed primrose, prickly poppies, and Scarlet bugler.



*Prickly Poppy*



*Wallace Eriophyllum*

**Jack Rabbit Flat Wildlife Sanctuary**—flowers in bloom: Fremont pincushion, Desert dandelion, creosote bush, Mojave sun cups, goldfields, Parry gilia (white and purple) and Wallace eriophyllum.

**Mt. Emma Road**—wonderful showing of Prince's plume. ►



**PARRY GILIA**  
*Linanthus parryae*



*White Parry Gilia at Jack Rabbit Flat Wildlife Sanctuary*

I found a few of the Parry Gilia at Ripley, a fairly nice showing at Portal Ridge Wildlife area and this nice showing at Jack Rabbit Flat Wildlife Sanctuary. I have not seen these flowers in several years. They like to have nice winter rains for the seeds to germinate around January to February, produce flowering

plants in April to May and shed their seeds in May to June. Their seeds may lie dormant in the soil for up to 7 years until the right weather conditions arrive.

*Linanthus parryae* is a species of flowering plants in the phlox family and also known as sandblossoms. They are endemic to California, especially the Mojave Desert where they occur in sandy, open habitats. The flowers can be white, blue or a bluish-purple color and have 5 petals. This plant rarely grows over 2-inches tall and has leaves that are short, prickly and are usually hidden by the blooms. Flowers can be found alone or in large groups that may look like snow on the ground.



Jane Pinheiro stated, “Sometimes it seems as though some jesting sprite had strewn the ground with flowers as it danced through the forest in the moonlight, for here is one, there a cluster, over yonder on long drift and again, a solid patch of these fragile, pert little white, pink or lavender-blue flowers, set tight to the ground, apparently without any foliage at all... At times one sees what appears to be a plant bearing pink, and lavender, and white blossoms all at once. This is merely another jest of nature, she having caused several plants to grow in such close proximity as to appear one”. Quote from *A Flower-Watcher’s Guide* by Milt Stark.



Jane Pinheiro called them “boutonnieres” and truly some of the most beautiful “belly flowers”.