

### American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

The American Golden-Plover occurs—or occurred—in San Diego County as a rare fall migrant. Its primary site was the Tijuana River valley, where the extensive irrigated pastures that once attracted the birds no longer exist.

**Migration:** The American Golden-Plover has been seen in San Diego County mainly from mid September to late October. The maximum number recorded was 15 in the Tijuana River valley 8 October 1966 (G. McCaskie). These could have included Pacific Golden-Plovers as well; at that time criteria for distinguishing the golden-plovers in the field were not well understood. The only specimen of the American was collected in the Tijuana River valley 18 October 1972 (SDNHM 38234). Extreme dates are 26 July (1980, AB 34:930, 1980) and 23 November (1992, E. R. Lichtwardt, AB 47:149, 1992). With a couple of sod farms being the only agricultural fields remaining in the Tijuana River valley, the American Golden Plover has



*Photo by Anthony Mercieca*

become less than annual. One was there 30 September–23 October 2003 (G. McCaskie). Of the spring records of golden-plovers in San Diego County, none is certainly of the American.