

### **Cassin's Sparrow *Aimophila cassinii***

Cassin's Sparrow normally ranges from southeastern Arizona and the southwestern Great Plains south into mainland Mexico. Though there were small influxes to the Mojave Desert in spring 1978 and 1993, following wet winters, the species is a rare vagrant to California. The three records for San Diego County are likely of a single bird returning to the same site.

**Migration:** San Diego County's one location for Cassin's Sparrow was open sage scrub along Dehesa Road 1 mile east of Granite Hills Drive, El Cajon (Q14). Here a singing male appeared 15–30 May 1970, 8–11 May 1976, and 10–12 June 1978, to be photographed and tape-recorded (S. Oberbauer, M. U. Evans, Roberson 1993). The habitat has since been replaced with a housing development.



*Photo by Brian L. Sullivan*