

### Dusky-capped or Olivaceous Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

The Dusky-capped Flycatcher reaches California as a rare winter visitor from the southeast. San Diego County accounts for so small a fraction of the state's 64 records (through 2002) that we may infer that the trajectory of most vagrants passes to the north of us. In the United States, the "Dusky-capped" Flycatcher has no dusky cap; it must be distinguished from the similar Ash-throated by its smaller size, flatter and proportionately longer bill, less rufous in the wings and tail, and, most characteristically, by its soft mournful whistle, "pee-ur."

**Winter:** Four records, of one photographed at La Jolla (P7) 8 March 1985 (L. Bevier et al., AB 39:211, 1985, Dunn 1988), one on the grounds of the San Diego Zoo (R9) 16 February–7 April 1988 (B. and I. Mazin, AB 42:322, 1988, Pyle and McCaskie 1992), one at Point Loma (S7) 12 April–1 May 1997 (P. A. Ginsburg, FN 51:928, 1997, Rottenborn and Morlan 2000), and one at Greenwood Cemetery (S10) 15 December 2001–22 February 2002 (J. O. Zimmer et al.). Though the date of at least the Point Loma record suggests a spring migrant, the species' pattern of winter occurrence in California is so well established that it seems certain that all San Diego County Dusky-capped Flycatchers arrived at that season but may not have been discovered until late in their stay.



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

**Taxonomy:** The one California specimen, from Death Valley, has been identified as *M. t. olivascens* Ridgway, 1884, the subspecies ranging north to the northern limit of the species' breeding range, in the mountains of southern Arizona (Suffel 1970). *Myiarchus t. olivascens* has less rufous edging on its remiges and rectrices than other Middle American subspecies. Like some other west Mexican subspecies of *M. tuberculifer*, it has a crown no darker than the back.