Painted Redstart Myioborus pictus

The Painted Redstart nests in mountain forests from Arizona south through Mexico and is a vagrant to California. The nesting attempt in San Diego County's Laguna Mountains in 1974 is one of only two known for California. Most of the county's 44 records are for fall, with nine for winter, three for spring, and two for summer.

Migration: In fall the Painted Redstart is reported in San Diego County at the rate of about one per year. Except for one at Agua Caliente Springs (M26) in the Anza–Borrego Desert 1–2 October 1996 (M. Graham, NASFN 51:121, 1997), all fall reports are coastal, inland to Lakeside (O14/P14; 14 October 1991, C. M. Keller, AB 46:152, 1991). The number reported per year has varied from zero to three, as in 1986 and 1996. Fall dates range from 24 August (1993, Tijuana River valley, D. W. Aguillard, C. H. Reiser, McCaskie and San Miguel 1999) to 8 November (1987, Point Loma, S7, R. Fowler, AB 42:139, 1988).

The three spring records are from Borrego Springs (F24/G24) 1 April 1979 (AB 33:898, 1979), Sorrento Valley (N8) 1 May 1994 (D. K. Adams, NASFN 48:342, 1994), and Encinitas (K7) 24 May 1995 (D. W. Aguillard, NASFN 49:311, 1995).

Winter: The nine winter records are all for the coastal lowland. Unitt (1984) listed five; subsequent ones are from Point Loma 20 December 1986–22 March 1987



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

(R. Arn, AB 41:331, 1987), Coronado (S9) 25 November 1987–21 March 1988 (E. Copper, AB 42:139, 323, 1988), Mission Valley (R9) 30 January–27 February 1990 (M. E. Gowan, AB 44:331, 1990), and San Diego (R9) 2 February 1998 (T. Hartnett, FN 52:259, 1998).

Breeding distribution: The two summer records are of one along Jaybird Creek, Palomar Mountain (E13), 25 June–6 August 1969 (AFN 23:696, 1970) and a pair along Agua Dulce Creek, Laguna Mountains (O23), 23 May–29 July 1974. The nest of this pair, with recently hatched chicks, was found 6 July, but by 13 July the nest was deserted and the chicks were dead (Unitt 1974).