

Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor*

Even though it breeds mainly in the southeastern United States and winters mainly in the West Indies, the Prairie Warbler is seen nearly annually as a fall vagrant in San Diego County. There are five records in winter but none in spring.

Migration: Fall records of the Prairie Warbler in San Diego County are mainly from Point Loma and the Tijuana River valley, with a few as far inland as Otay Mesa (V11) and O'Neill Lake (E6; 27 September 2000, P. A. Ginsburg). They are concentrated from early September to mid October but range from 16 August (1977, Tijuana River valley, AB 32:263, 1978) to 14 December (2002, Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, J. C. Worley). The latter bird was apparently attempting to winter, as it had been in the area continuously from 23 September.

Winter: San Diego County's five definitely wintering Prairie Warblers were in Otay Valley (V11) 19 December 1969–24 January 1970 (AFN 24:540, 1970), Coronado (S9) 15 December 1979–6 January 1980 (when found dead, SDNHM 41418), Los Peñasquitos Canyon (N8) 3 November 1991–5 April 1992 (C. G. Edwards, AB 46:151,



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

315, 1991), Santee (P12) 31 March 1996 (D. Yee, NASFN 50:225, 1996), and in the Anza–Borrego Desert at Carrizo Palms (R28) 8 February 1998 (J. O. Zimmer, FN 52:259, 1998).

Taxonomy: San Diego County specimens of the Prairie Warbler are nominate *D. d. discolor* (Vieillot, 1807), the subspecies widespread in the eastern United States.