Prothonotary Warbler Protonotaria citrea

The Prothonotary was once one of the rarest eastern warblers reaching California, but it has been one of the participants in the recent surge of species originating from the southeastern United States (Patten and Marantz 1996). Reported from San Diego County first in 1967, the Prothonotary has kept up a pace of slightly over one county record per year since 1977, to a total 34 by the end of 2003. Most occurrences are in fall, but eight are in spring, two in winter.

Migration: Most of San Diego County’s Prothonotary Warblers have been at the usual sites for vagrant warblers, Point Loma and the Tijuana River valley, but a few have been found elsewhere in the coastal lowland, one as far inland as Pauma Valley (E12, 30 September–1 October 1995, D. Rawlins, NASFN 50:117, 1996). Fall records range from 1 September (1989, La Jolla, P7, SDNHM 46026) to 4 November (1967, Point Loma, S7, AFN 22:91, 1968) with a peak in late September and early October. Two additional specimens were picked up at Olivenhain (K8) 21 October 1991 (SDNHM 47838) and in the gorilla enclosure at the