

**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*

The Scarlet Tanager is a vagrant to California, as it nests only east of the Rocky Mountains and winters in South America. Nevertheless, there are about 35 records for San Diego County (nearly one third of all for California), three in spring, the remainder in fall.

**Migration:** The California Bird Records Committee has accepted 26 records of the Scarlet Tanager from San Diego County in fall; another nine have not been submitted or are still pending. The species thus averages about one per year, though with some irregularity. There were none 1970–76 but five in 2001. Most of the reports are from Point Loma (S7); six are from elsewhere near the coast, inland as far as Otay Mesa (V13). Dates of accepted records range from 5 October (2000, Point Loma, G. McCaskie; McKee and Erickson 2002) to 17 November (1969, Point Loma, Bevier 1990); unsubmitted records range from 29 September (1987, Point Loma, R. E. Webster, AB 42:139, 1988) to 30 November (1997, Tecolote Canyon, Q9, K. Rademaker, FN 52:128, 1998).



*Photo by Anthony Mercieca*

Howell and Pyle (1997) questioned an unseasonably early report, 24–26 August 1994 (NASFN 49:103, 1995).

The three spring records are from Point Loma 26–28 May 1979 (Binford 1983) and 29 May–2 June 1983 (L. R. Santaella; Morlan 1985) and from Coronado (S9) 7 May 1987 (E. Copper; Langham 1991).