

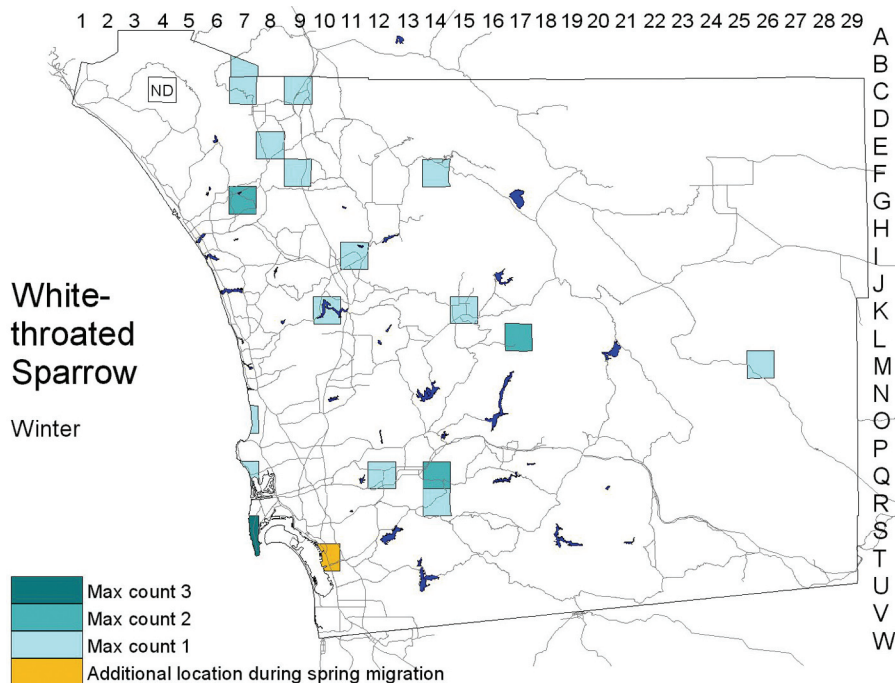
White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

The White-throated Sparrow is a rare but regular winter visitor to San Diego County. The five-year atlas-study period generated about five sightings per year. The White-throated Sparrow is often found with the more common species of *Zonotrichia* but prefers the cover of dense vegetation, much like the Golden-crowned Sparrow. It avoids the open scrub and grassland where the White-crowned Sparrow is often abundant.

Winter: In San Diego County the White-throated Sparrow occurs widely through the coastal slope. Its locations during the atlas period were all at 2600 feet elevation or lower, but earlier records go as high as 4600 feet at Lake Cuyamaca (M20). There are only a few



Photo by Anthony Mercieca



records from the Anza–Borrego Desert, of birds picked up dead at the Borrego airport (F25) 7 and 19 December 1984 (SDNHM 44445 and 44498), one in Borrego Springs (G24) 30 December 1990–16 March 1991 (A. G. Morley), and one at Agua Caliente Springs (M26) 28 January 1998 (E. C. Hall). Seldom is more than one White-throated seen at a time, though it flocks with other sparrows. The maximum is three, as at Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, Point Loma (S7), 2 March 2002 (D. V. Blue).

Migration: The White-throated Sparrow occurs in San Diego County mainly from November to March, but dates range from 10 October (1974, Point Loma, J. L. Dunn) to 12 May (1988, same location, R. E. Webster, AB 42:483, 1988).