

### **American Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea***

The American Tree Sparrow is a bird of the arctic and subarctic. Even in northernmost California it is a rare winter visitor. The 12 records for San Diego County are the southernmost along the Pacific coast.

**Migration:** All sightings of the American Tree Sparrow in San Diego County have been at Point Loma (S7), except for one in southwestern Balboa Park (S9) 13–21 December 1975 and one in Presidio Park (R8) 13 November 1976 (AB 31:225, 1977). All have been of single individuals (usually flocked with other sparrows), except for two at Point Loma 28–31 October 1982 (R. E. Webster, AB 37:226, 1983). The only one during the atlas period was there 4–5 November 1999 (J. C. Worley, NAB 54:107, 2000). The species' dates range from 11 October (1970, McCaskie 1973) to 21 December.



Photo by Richard E. Webster

**Taxonomy:** No specimen has been collected in San Diego County, but specimens from elsewhere in California are *S. a. ochracea* Brewster, 1882 (McCaskie 1973).