

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is one of those shorebirds that breeds largely in arctic Canada and migrates largely down the middle of the continent. It is rare on either coast; almost all seen in California are juveniles in fall migration. Nineteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers have been seen in San Diego County, on grass or dry mud. This rather short-billed species does not probe wet mud.

Migration: Of San Diego County's 19 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, all have been in the Tijuana River valley except one at the upper end of Buena Vista Lagoon (H6; on land subsequently developed into a shopping center) 16 September 1967 (AFN 22:90.1968), one at Baticuitos Lagoon (J7) 8 September 1991 (Patten et al. 1995b), two at the upper end of Lake Hodges (K11) 2–3 September 1978 (Binford 1983), and one at North Island Naval Air Station (S8) 19 October 2001 (R. T. Patton). Dates range from 26 August (1991, Patten et al. 1995b) to 25 October (1990,



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

Heindel and Garrett 1995), except for a late straggler 4–7 December 1993 (P. Chad, NASFN 48:248, 1994). All of San Diego County's Buff-breasted Sandpipers have been juveniles, except for an adult 26 August–7 September 1991.