

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*

The Chestnut-sided Warbler is a regular fall vagrant to San Diego County, its recent numbers varying from one per year as in 2000 to five in 2002. There are only five records of spring vagrants. Twelve Chestnut-sided Warblers are known to have wintered in San Diego County, all since 1983, suggesting the species could be adding southern California to its winter range—there are also 12 winter records from the Salton Sink (Patten et al. 2003).

Migration: In fall the status of the Chestnut-sided typifies that of many eastern warblers. All records are for the coastal lowland, most from Point Loma (S7), from mid September to late October. One at Coronado (S9) 17 August 1985 (E. Copper) was exceptionally early. The spring records are from the Tijuana River valley 5–6 June 1965 (AFN 19:511, 1965), the Sweetwater River at Jamacha (R14) 29 May 1974 (AB 28:854, 1974), Point Loma 5 June 1977 (AB 31:1049, 1977) and 22–23 May 2001 (M. Farley, NAB 55:357, 2001), and Lower Willows (D23) 19 May 2001 (M. L. Gabel, NAB 55:357, 2001). The last is the county's only record outside the coastal lowland.

Winter: Since two Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted on the Oceanside Christmas bird count 24 December 1983, the species has been found in San Diego about every other winter. Some of the birds have been in native riparian



Photo by Matt Sadowski

woodland, as at Kit Carson Park, Escondido (K11; two from 30 December 1993 to 2 January 1994, K. L. Weaver, NASFN 48:249, 1994; one on 30 December 2000, P. Unitt). Others have been in gardens or ornamental trees in heavily urbanized areas, such as one on the grounds of the Self-Realization Fellowship, Encinitas (K6), 20 March 2001 (G. C. Hazard, NAB 55:357, 2001), one in a parking lot between the Marriott and Hyatt hotels along downtown San Diego's waterfront (S9) 18 November 2001–9 March 2002 (M. M. Rogers, NAB 56:225, 2002), and one in the Little Italy neighborhood of downtown San Diego (S9) 19 November–24 December 2003 (M. Sadowski).