

### **McCown's Longspur** *Calcarius mccownii*

Though an annual rare winter visitor to the Imperial Valley, McCown's Longspur is only casual in San Diego County, the least frequent of the three longspurs recorded here. It has not been seen in the county since 1991, probably as a result of the elimination, especially in the Tijuana River valley, of the plowed fields the species seeks.

**Migration:** Ten of the 11 fall records of McCown's Longspur for San Diego County are from the Tijuana River valley, scattered from 1965 to 1991. Their dates range from 19 October (1969, AFN 24:100d, 1970) to 6 December (1975, AB 30:770, 1976). One was at Otay Mesa (V13) 6 November 1971 (AB 26:124, 1972).

**Winter:** The only McCown's Longspurs found in San Diego County in winter were two near Lake Henshaw (G17) 3–11 January 1987 (D. B. King, AB 41:331, 1987).



*Photo by Brian L. Sullivan*