

### Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia*

A close relative of MacGillivray's Warbler, the Mourning Warbler replaces that western species in the boreal forest east of the Rocky Mountains. The Mourning is a rare vagrant to California, probably often overlooked because of its preference for dense vegetation and its similarity to MacGillivray's Warbler. The California Bird Records Committee has accepted five records of the Mourning for San Diego County.

**Migration:** The five records are all for late September and early October. Four are for Point Loma: 3 October 1968 (McCaskie 1970, SDNHM 36933), 8 October 1982 and 20 September 1983 (R. E. Webster; Roberson 1986), and 21–25 September 2002 (J. C. Worley; Cole and McCaskie 2004). One is for the Tijuana River valley: 21 September 1985 (G. McCaskie, Bevier 1990). No documentation was submitted for two other records published in *American Birds*. The individual at Point Loma in 2002 was remarkable for being an adult male; the vast majority of vagrant warblers are immature.



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

**Taxonomy:** In spite of subsequent statements that hybrid Mourning × MacGillivray's Warblers are unknown, the apparent hybrids collected in Alberta and studied by Cox (1973) are still preserved in the San Diego Natural History Museum.