

THRUSHES — FAMILY TURDIDAE

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The Northern Wheatear breeds widely in Alaska and northwestern Canada, but instead of migrating south it migrates far to the west, halfway around the world, to winter in sub-Saharan Africa. Along the Pacific coast of the lower 48 states it is only a casual vagrant, with 11 records for California and one for San Diego County.

Migration: The single Northern Wheatear known for San Diego County was in a patch of open sage scrub in the La Jolla Coast Preserve (O7) 18 October 2001 (D. W. Au, S. E. Smith; Garrett and Wilson 2003). This occurrence is the southernmost known for the Pacific coast of North America and one of only two for southern California.