

Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus*

Characteristic of pine forests of eastern North America, the Pine Warbler is a rare but increasing vagrant to California. The California Bird Records Committee has accepted 24 records for San Diego County, 17 for fall, six for winter, and one for spring.

Migration: San Diego County's fall Pine Warblers have all been found in the Tijuana River valley (eight) or at Point Loma (eight), except for one in Presidio Park (R8) 6 November 1988 (Pyle and McCaskie 1992). Their

dates range from 4 October (2001, Point Loma, S7, R. E. Webster; Garrett and Wilson 2003) to 10 November (1992, Point Loma, R. E. Webster, Heindel and Patten 1996). The records committee rejected the report for 18 September 1971; well-supported California records of the Pine Warbler are notably late in the fall. The single spring record is of a singing male in Torrey Pines State Reserve (N7) 5–6 June 1987 (J. O'Brien; Langham 1991).

Winter: The California Bird Records Committee has accepted one winter record for Coronado (S9), 15 December 1984–9 March 1985 (E. Copper, Bevier 1990), one for San Diego, 3–21 March 1991 (D. M. Parker, Heindel and

Garrett 1995), and three for Point Loma, 12–23 December 1983 (R. E. Webster, Roberson 1986), 6 January–12 April 1992 (P. A. Ginsburg, Heindel and Patten 1996), and 3 April 2002 (V. P. Johnson, Cole and McCaskie 2004). Two wintering Pine Warblers were found at Veterans' Park, Imperial Beach (V10), 7 December 2003–27 January 2004 (M. Billings).

Conservation: California occurrences of the Pine Warbler spiked from 1983 to 1993, perhaps reflecting a spike in the species' total population. A possible long-term change is the Pine Warbler's increasing frequency in winter; California's first winter record was in 1978, yet by 2002 winter records statewide reached 25.

Taxonomy: Nominate *D. p. pinus* (Wilson, 1811) is the subspecies breeding throughout the eastern United States except Florida and is the subspecies reaching California.



Photo by Anthony Mercieca