

**Prothonotary Warbler** *Protonotaria citrea*

The Prothonotary was once one of the rarest eastern warblers reaching California, but it has been one of the participants in the recent surge of species originating from the southeastern United States (Patten and Marantz 1996). Reported from San Diego County first in 1967, the Prothonotary has kept up a pace of slightly over one county record per year since 1977, to a total 34 by the end of 2003. Most occurrences are in fall, but eight are in spring, two in winter.

**Migration:** Most of San Diego County's Prothonotary Warblers have been at the usual sites for vagrant warblers, Point Loma and the Tijuana River valley, but a few have been found elsewhere in the coastal lowland, one as far as inland as Pauma Valley (E12, 30 September–1 October 1995, D. Rawlins, NASFN 50:117, 1996). Fall records range from 1 September (1989, La Jolla, P7, SDNHM 46026) to 4 November (1967, Point Loma, S7, AFN 22:91, 1968) with a peak in late September and early October. Two additional specimens were picked up at Olivenhain (K8) 21 October 1991 (SDNHM 47838) and in the gorilla enclosure at the

San Diego Zoo (R9) 22 September 2002 (SDNHM 50657). Spring records range from 3 May (1996, San Diego, R9, M. U. Evans, NASFN 50:334, 1996) to 7 June (1977, Tijuana River valley, Luther et al. 1983).

**Winter:** Though it typically winters in tropical swamps, the Prothonotary Warbler has wintered twice in San Diego County, once in San Diego's neighborhood of University Heights (R9) 25 January–20 March 1987 (R. Abnet, Roberson 1993), once in Greenwood Cemetery (S9) 12–15 December 2003 (D. W. Aguillard, J. O. Zimmer).



*Photo by Anthony Mercieca*