

Whip-poor-will *Caprimulgus vociferus*

The Whip-poor-will has colonized some of southern California's higher mountain ranges, though its breeding there remains unconfirmed. But it is still a casual vagrant to San Diego County, where there are only three records.

Migration: One was captured and released at Point Loma 14 November 1970 (Craig 1971). Another was seen roosting daily in Coronado from late December 1971 to 25 March 1972 (AB 26:655, 1972). One was heard calling near Julian 8 July 1971 (AB 25:907, 1971).

Taxonomy: Two subspecies of the Whip-poor-will occur in the United States, nominate *C. v. vociferus* Wilson, 1812, in the East and *C. v. arizonae* (Brewster, 1881) in the mountains of Arizona. The two are well differentiated by voice and in juvenile plumage (Ridgway 1914) but weakly differ-



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

entiated in adult plumage (Hubbard and Crossin 1974). The bird near Julian was undoubtedly *arizonae* because summering Whip-poor-wills elsewhere in southern California sing the song of this subspecies. Craig (1971) reported the bird at Point Loma as *vociferus* on the basis of its short wings and entirely black rectal bristles, but Hubbard and Crossin (1974) questioned this identification.