

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

TENNESSEE WARBLER
Family: EMBERIZIDAE
B755

Leiothlypis peregrina
Order: PASSERIFORMES

Class: AVES

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

Rare vagrant or migrant primarily found along the coast including the Channel Islands and in Mojave Desert oases. Casual in the coastal region during winter. Although records for this warbler exist along the entire California coast, the majority have been found south of Sonoma County. Generally, these birds concentrate in groves of trees along the coast and desert oases (Garrett and Dunn 1981).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Warblers predominately forage along the terminal foliage of trees and shrubs but also will glean invertebrates from herbaceous vegetation. They consume mainly invertebrates from surface of vegetation; rarely eats vegetative material (Bent 1953).

Cover: Fairly dense foliage provided by groves of trees and shrubs is used for cover.

Reproduction: Tennessee warblers do not breed in California. They breed in boreal coniferous forests in the northeastern United States and across Canada from northwestern British Columbia to the Atlantic. Nests on or near the ground; nests are concealed by live or rank taller grasses or low shrubs. The nest is shallow and lined with fine grasses, hair, and fibers. Nests commonly are located in peat moss bogs (Chapman 1907, Harrison 1978).

Water: No data.

Pattern: In California, vagrants in the desert concentrate at oases; those over the ocean can be found on offshore islands or in trees on projecting coastal points or at river mouths.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Year-long diurnal activity. Nocturnal migrant.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Vagrant or Migratory throughout the state. Most spring records are for the deserts and Point Reyes; most fall documentation is for the coast.

Home Range: No data for California.

Territory: No data for California.

Reproduction: Tennessee warblers do not breed in California. Where breeding occurs, it begins in late May to early June. An average of 4 to 6 eggs are laid per clutch, sometimes as many as 7 (Harrison 1978). Only females incubate the eggs (Bent 1953). No data on duration of incubation or development of young.

Niche: Tennessee warblers may consume many insects that damage commercial and ornamental plants, and thus are probably beneficial. They are known, however, to damage grapes by piercing the fruits, apparently attempting to

consume the liquid (Bent 1953). Adult warblers and their eggs are probably eaten by various ground snakes, raccoons, skunks, weasels, and accipiters.

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