Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*

In spite of breeding only in eastern North America and wintering in the West Indies, the Black-throated Blue Warbler is a regular visitor to California. San Diego County gets the species nearly every year, with up to 12 in 1988. The species is disproportionately scarce in spring, when there are only three records for the county. It has been found three times in winter also.

**Migration:** As for most vagrant warblers, San Diego County records of the Black-throated Blue are concentrated along the coast. A few, though, are scattered farther
inland, as at Valley Center (G11; 11 November 1971, AB 26:123, 1972), Grable Ranch (M16; 29 September 1992, R. T. Patton), and 1.3 miles southwest of Iron Mountain (M13; struck the window of a house about 4 October 1998, SDNHM 50143). The species occurs rather late in the fall; dates range from 29 September to 6 December (1987, San Diego, P. D. Jorgensen, AB 42:323, 1988), with the winter records excluded.


**Taxonomy:** The Black-throated Blue Warbler is often divided into two subspecies; only the more northern nominate *D. c. caerulescens* (Gmelin, 1789) is likely to reach California, and all of California’s identifiable specimens are of it.