

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*

In spring the Blackburnian Warbler, the male with its flaming orange throat framed in black, is one of the most spectacular warblers. In California, however, the Blackburnian is seen in fall almost exclusively, when it can be confused with the immature female Townsend's Warbler. The Blackburnian occurs in San Diego County nearly annually, typically with only one or two reported. Two winter records are surprising because the species winters mainly in South America.

Migration: The fall of 2001 was an exceptional year for the Blackburnian Warbler in San Diego County, yielding at least six individuals on Point Loma (S7). Most of the county's Blackburnians have been there or in the Tijuana River valley. The most inland fall locality is Old Mission Dam (P11; 27 September 1977, B. Cord), except for the single record for the Anza-Borrego Desert, at Agua Caliente Springs (M26; 10 October 1977, AB 32:262, 1978). The county's only spring record is of a male at Point Loma 4 June 1985 (R. E. Webster, AB 39:351, 1985).



Photo by Brian L. Sullivan

Winter: One Blackburnian was in Santee (P12) 26 December 1988 (D. S. Cooper, AB 43:368, 1989); another was in Imperial Beach (V10) 8 December 2003–14 February 2004 (M. Sadowski).