

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*

The Common Grackle occurs mainly east of the Rocky Mountains but is gradually increasing as a vagrant to California. Since the first in 1967, records in the state have accelerated to total 61 by 2002. The California Bird Records Committee has accepted just four for San Diego County.

Migration: Of the county's four committee-endorsed records of the Common Grackle one is for fall, one is for winter, and two are for spring. The fall record is the first for California, of one collected along La Cresta Road between El Cajon and Crest (Q14/Q15) 20 November 1967 (SDSU 2092, Roberson 1993). Unfortunately, the original label was apparently lost between the early 1980s and the early 1990s, before the specimen was catalogued, so the identification of SDSU 2092 as the specimen from La Cresta Road is only by inference. The spring records are of one at Point Loma (S7) 23 April 1992 (V. P. Johnson, B. Jones, Heindel and Patten 1996) and one photographed at Butterfield Ranch (M23) 14 April 2000 (J. E. Solis, J. E. Hunter, G. C. Hazard, McKee and Erickson 2002). Another spring report, of one "seen in flight" at Point Loma, was apparently not submitted to the records committee (FN 51:929, 1997).



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

Winter: One at Carlsbad (I6) 9 February–26 March 1977 was photographed (Luther 1980).

Taxonomy: All of California's Common Grackles have been Bronzed Grackles, *Q. q. versicolor* Vieillot, 1819, expected because it is the migratory subspecies widespread across the northern part of the species' range.