

Rufous-backed Robin *Turdus rufopalliatus*

A species of western mainland Mexico, the Rufous-backed Robin has, since the 1960s, been dispersing annually in small numbers north to Arizona in fall and winter. Nine of these vagrants are known to have strayed west to southern California, one reaching San Diego County.

Winter: The single Rufous-backed Robin known for San Diego County was photographed on the lushly landscaped grounds of the Casa del Zorro, Borrego Springs (H25), 16 March–16 April 1996 (K. Ellsworth; McCaskie and San Miguel 1999). Though the bird occurred in early spring, its long stay suggested it was a winter visitor, presumably passing unnoticed until March. Other California records range from November to early April.