

Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*

The Rusty Blackbird nests in the taiga zone of Alaska and Canada and winters mostly in the southeastern quadrant of the United States. It is a rare visitor to California in fall and winter. The six records for San Diego County are almost the southernmost along the Pacific coast, as there are just two records for northern Baja California and one from northwestern Sonora.

Winter: Sefton (1926) collected one at the former Monte Vista Ranch, Jamacha (R13), 14 November 1925 (SDNHM 10163). Sight records are of one at Borrego Springs (F24/G24) 27 November 1964 (AFN 19:81–82, 1965), one at Point Loma (S7) 9–10 November 1974 (AB 29:124, 1975), two in the Tijuana River valley (W11) 11–28 February 1981 (P. Unitt, AB 35:337, 1981), one there 28 October 1983 (G. McCaskie, AB 38:248, 1984), and one near Oceanside (G6) 22 February–20 March 1987 (G. McCaskie, AB 41:332, 1987).



Photo by Brian L. Sullivan

Conservation: The lack of reports since 1987 reflects a downturn in the Rusty Blackbird's rate of occurrence throughout California.