

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*

The Black-throated Green Warbler replaces the Hermit and Townsend's east of the Rocky Mountains. Like other warblers breeding in Canada's boreal forest, however, it strays to California regularly in fall migration. One or two are reported in San Diego County in most years, with six in 1975 and 1986. There are only two records in spring. The pace of winter records has accelerated since the first in 1978: at least seven Black-throated Green Warblers have wintered in the county, some of them returning repeatedly.

Migration: Most of San Diego County's Black-throated Green Warblers have been along or near the coast, but two have been in the Anza-Borrego Desert, at Yaqui Well (I24) 24 October 1963 (AFN 18:75, 1964) and Clark Dry Lake (D25) 15 November 1989 (D. and M. Hastings, AB 44:164, 1990). Most occurrences are from mid September through early November; earliest was one in San Clemente Canyon (P8) 7 September 1974 (AB 29:123, 1975). The two spring records are of a male photographed near San Diego 7 June 1987 (L. Walton, AB 41:489, 1987) and one at Point Loma (S7) 27–29 May 1996 (R. E. Webster, NASFN 50:334, 1996).

Winter: Sites of San Diego County's wintering Black-throated Green Warblers are Guajome Lake (G7; returned four consecutive winters 24 December 1995–6 February 2000, P. A. Ginsburg, NAB 54:106, 222, 2000), Buena Vista Lagoon



Photo by Anthony Mercieca

(H5; 22 December 2001, P. Unitt, NAB 56:224, 2002), Spring Valley (R12) 20 January–21 February 2002 (M. Hastings, NAB 56:224, 2002), Coronado (S9; 30 November–2 March 2002, E. Copper, NAB 56:107, 2002), National City (T11; returned seven consecutive winters 27 November 1996–19 February 2003, D. W. Aguillard, NAB 57:118, 258, 2003), and Otay Valley (V11; returned three consecutive winters 16 December 1978–15 February 1981, AB 35:336, 1981; also 18 December 1999, P. Unitt, NAB 54:222, 2000). In 1998 the bird in National City remained as late as 10 April.

Conservation: The upsurge of wintering Black-throated Green Warblers beginning in 1995 suggests an expansion of the species' winter range, as the rate of fall records has not accelerated.