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FIRST RECORD OF A SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT (*CALLIOPE CALLIOPE*) IN THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES

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ABSTRACT: The first Siberian Rubythroat (*Calliope calliope*) recorded in the conterminous United States occurred in Santa Clara County, California, on 19 November 2022. The detection was made by a motion-activated trail camera, and the bird was not recorded thereafter.

On 19 November 2022, a trail camera placed in Mountain View, Santa Clara County, California (37.426° N, 122.072° W, Figure 1), photographed a male Siberian Rubythroat (*Calliope calliope*; Figures 1 and 2). The camera, a Browning Strike Force HD Pro X, took a burst of three images at 16:02. This was the only detection of the rubythroat made by our 40 cameras placed in the vicinity between July 2022 and



FIGURE 1. Locations of previous observations of the Siberian Rubythroat in North America (top left, observation data from eBird), inset map showing the location of the sighting within the San Francisco Bay Area (bottom left), map of the surrounding area in Mountain View, Santa Clara County (bottom right), and photo of the bird (top right).



FIGURE 2. Trail camera image of male Siberian Rubythroat at Mountain View, Santa Clara County, California, 19 November 2022.

March 2023. This record (2022-134) was accepted by the California Bird Records Committee.

The site where the rubythroat was detected is located within an industrial park approximately 250 m west of Stevens Creek, adjacent to the Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area, and approximately 1 km south of San Francisco Bay (Figure 1). The trail camera was placed approximately 30 cm above the ground, attached to a steel t-post, in a landscaped area between pedestrian walkways in the industrial park (Figure 3). The immediately surrounding area is planted with a variety of native and exotic trees and shrubs that provide significant cover (Figure 3).

The Siberian Rubythroat is a small (length 14–16 cm; weight 16–29 g) passerine bird in the family Muscicapidae (Clements et al. 2022). It is light brown in color with a whitish underside and olive brown flanks. Males have an iridescent red throat bordered by black and white, while females have white throats. The Siberian Rubythroat breeds in Siberia and winters in southern and southeast Asia (del Hoyo et al. 2005).

In North America, the Siberian Rubythroat is a migrant in the western Aleutian Islands and occurs casually on Bering Sea islands (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Gibson and Withrow 2015, Lehman 2019). Additionally, it has been detected on the mainland of Alaska at Wales 30 May 1983 (Am. Birds 37:903, 1983), near Nome 13 June 2003 (N. Am. Birds 57:533, 2004) and 14 June 2014 (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S71319756>), and at Utqiagvik 3 July 2004; (N. Am. Bird 58:585, 2004) and 10 October 2021 (<https://ebird.org/ak/checklist/S96183687>; Figure 1). A single male was found dead near Hornby, Ontario, Canada, on 26 December 1983 (Brewer et al. 1983, Figure 1). The rubythroat we detected in Mountain View is the first known in the conterminous United States and was part of an unusual influx during fall 2022 of Eurasian passerines previously unrecorded in California. For instance, a Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) observed at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County, 18–24 October 2022 and a Wood Warbler (*P. sibilatrix*) observed in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, 15–24 October 2022 both represented first records of these species for the conterminous United States (<https://californiabirds.org/>).

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FIGURE 3. Area surrounding the trail camera, showing the pedestrian walkway and overall cover provided by trees and shrubbery (top), placement of the camera (bottom left), and additional plant species nearby (bottom right).

Photos by Giovanni Quezada

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