

NOTES

A RECORD OF A SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN

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On the morning of 16 September 2015 we observed a Siberian Rubythroat (*Luscinia calliope*) in the helicopter hangar of the icebreaker *Akademik Tryoshnikov*, which was conducting the research expedition NABOS II (Nansen and Amundsen Basins Observational System). The ship's position was close to 77° 09' N, 171° 47' E. We identified the bird (Figure 1) as a female in its year of hatching by the absolute

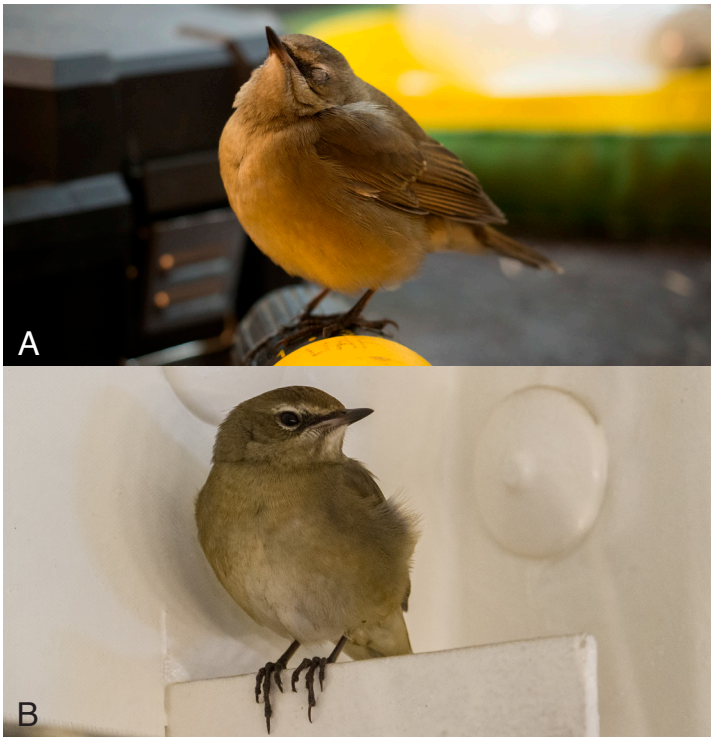


Figure 1. Hatching-year female Siberian Rubythroat, 16 September 2015, aboard ship at ~77° 09' N, 171° 47' E.

Photos by Jan Rohde (A) and Elizaveta A. Ershova (B)

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lack of red on the throat and by the presence of light spots on the greater coverts. The bird looked exhausted, closed its eyes frequently, and allowed photographs at close range. It accepted water offered by expedition members. After several hours of rest the bird left the hangar, and it was never seen again. The ship's location was ~600 km northeast of Novaya Sibir, in the New Siberian Islands, and ~800 km north of Wrangel Island. The Siberian Rubythroat's breeding range lies below the Arctic Circle (Gladkov 1954, Collar 2005) and extends as far east as the Anadyr River basin (Tomkovich 2008), in Chukotka. In Alaska it occurs as a migrant in the western Aleutian Islands and as a casual visitant on the Bering Sea islands (Gibson and Withrow 2015); as far west and south as the British Isles it is a vagrant (BOU 2013). We are not aware of any other records of this species from the high Arctic. During the week prior to this discovery, the ship plied the Arctic Ocean between latitudes 75° and 80° N. Since this species winters in southeast Asia (Gladkov 1954, Collar 2005), this young female's misorientation was not adaptive behavior.

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