



Photo by Michael Burkholder

Bahama Woodstar

Bahama Woodstar (BAWO)

Calliphlox evelynae

Banded April 22, 2013
160 Mountain Road
Denver, PA 17517
Lancaster County
40° 15' 35.57"N, 76° 10' 5.05"W

Wing chord: 39.45 mm
Tail: 31.0 mm
Exposed culmen: 15.55 mm
Percent grooving on maxilla: 0%
Iridescent gorget feathers: 100%

Band number: P24356
Age: AHY (adult)
Sex: M (male)

Weight: 3.41 grams
Fat: 2 (scale 0 – 5)

First observed: April 20, 2013
Last observed: April 24, 2013

Submitted by:
Sandy Lockerman
3830 Lexington Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-657-0509 home
717-329-8040 cell
lockerman@paonline.com

Overview: The bird was first observed at a backyard hummingbird feeder on April 20, 2013 at the home of Delmas and Ruth Witmer. I received word of it being a possible broad-tailed hummingbird through Scott Weidensaul on April 22, 2013 who had fielded an email with photos from Mrs. Witmer.

We (Shirley Hamilton and I) arrived at the residence in the late morning of April 22, 2013. As I began measurements, I realized that the wing chord measurement was smaller than the parameters for a broad-tailed hummingbird and it did not have the modified (tapered) P10 of the broad-tailed either. The tail colors were also not that of any known western United States species. The bird was approximately the same size as a ruby-throated hummingbird. Measurements were taken, repeated twice and verified by Hamilton. The bird was banded on the right tarsus.

Speculation was made that it was a possible hybrid of two western hummingbirds, possibly broad-tailed and an unknown species thus the bird species was undetermined at banding.

Photos for documentation were taken by family member, Michael Burkholder.

After the banding, there were approximately 300 visitors to the residence to view the hummingbird (Witmer pers. comm).

48 hours later, the species of Bahama Woodstar was suggested by Robert Mulvihill of Pittsburgh, PA. After consultations with Fred Bassett of Foley, AL, Kelly B. Bryan of Fort Davis, TX, Bob and Martha Sargent of Birmingham, AL, Scott Weidensaul of Schuylkill Haven, PA, and Sherri L. Williamson of Bisbee, AZ. It was decided that this bird was indeed a **Bahama Woodstar**.

Maxilla grooving: The upper maxilla had no bill striations (“grooving”) on it when viewed through a 20X LED lighted loupe. This characteristic indicates an AHY (after hatch year or adult) bird.

Exposed culmen: The culmen was measured with a digital caliper (.00 mm) on the dorsal surface of the maxilla, from the front edge of the feathers to the tip of the bill. The culmen measured 15.55 mm long and was slightly arched. Reported bill lengths for males are 15 – 17 mm. (Hummingbirds of North America, page 181, Sherri L. Williamson) and 16-17 mm. (Hummingbirds of North America, A Photographic Guide, page 106, Steven N. G. Howell).



Exposed culmen-slightly arched

Wing chord: The wing was measured using a digital caliper (.00 mm) from bend to tip of P10. The wing chord was 39.45 mm.



Wing showing P8-P10



Measuring the wing chord

Tail: The tail was measured with a thin plastic millimeter rule, inserted to the base of the central rectrices and measured to the tip. This hummingbird's tail measurement was 31.0 mm. Tail lengths for males are 23-29 mm (Hummingbirds of North America, page 181, Sherri L. Williamson). The tail extended past the wingtips.

The tail was deeply forked with very short, green R1 feathers. R2 was mostly black with some rufous basally on the outer web. R3 and R4 had extensive amounts of rufous on the inner webs and R5 was mostly black.



Deeply forked tail, short, green R1 feathers



Rufous and black R2-5 rectrices

Gorget feathers: The gorget was a blend of magenta rose and violet. The color became more violet as it reached the outer edges (in bright sunlight). The gorget was 100% color. There were no elongated feathers on the side ruling out Lucifer's Hummingbird as a possible species.



Gorget 1



Gorget 2

Weight and Fat Score: The bird's weight was 3.41 grams and he had a fat score of 2.

Molt: No molt evidence was present.

Face Pattern: This hummingbird had distinctive rufous colored lores. There are no North American species with this color of lores.



Rufous lores

Other Features: Three characteristics were of note. First, the underwing coverts were a deep rufous color. Second, the bird's underparts were washed in a dusky cinnamon-rufous color. And thirdly, a collar of white feathers extended around the sides of the neck and across the breast.



Rufous underwing coverts



Underside during banding



White collar

Age and sex: An immature bird was ruled out because there was no grooving on the bill, making it an adult bird. A female bird was ruled out because to be a female, the bird would have had to have a pale gray to whitish throat and a slightly rounded to double rounded tail. The outer tail feathers would have been grayish rufous, green and black with rufous on the tips of R3-5. This bird had none of these characteristics, thus female was eliminated. (Hummingbirds of North America, page 181-182, Sherri L. Williamson) This was an adult male Bahama Woodstar.

Additional Information:

Research by Scott Weidensaul resulted in the confirmation that none of the 11 U.S. zoos that house hummingbirds had any Bahama Woodstar listed in their inventory.

Additional Photos:



Sandy with Mrs. Witmer

All photos by Michael Burkholder.

I would like to thank all of the bird banders for their wisdom, contributions and enthusiasm.