



Black-chinned Hummingbird (Geoff Malosh)

Black-chinned Hummingbird (BCHU)

Archilochus alexandri

Banded November 13, 2013
1872 Burkholder Road
Greencastle, PA 17225
Franklin County
39° 47' 3.53"N, -77° 40' 5.163"W

Wing chord: 41.27 mm
Tail: 25.0 mm
Exposed culmen: 19.38 mm
Percent grooving on maxilla: 0%
Iridescent gorget feathers: Full

Band number: J51025
Age: AHY (After Hatch Year)
Sex: M (male)

Weight: 3.39 grams
Fat: 0+ (scale 0 – 5)

First observed: approx. November 1, 2013
Last observed: November 25, 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 around November 1, 2013 at the home of Dale and Helen Gearhart. I received word of the hummingbird through Scott Weidensaul who fielded an email from Mr. Gearhart on November 12, 2013. The initial photo sent to Scott indicated the possibility that it could be a male *Archilochus* with the inclination toward the black-chinned species.

We (Gary Lockerman and I) arrived at the residence in the late morning of November 13 and set up a cage trap. We immediately captured the bird. When I removed the bird from the holding bag, I noticed the purple necklace of feathers at the bottom of the gorget. Having banded black-chinned hummingbirds in Texas, I suspected it was indeed a black-chinned hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri* (BCHU).

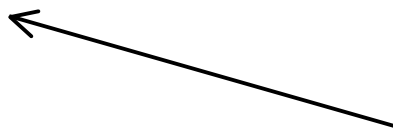
Measurements and plumage characteristics confirmed that this was a BCHU, a hummingbird in the same genus as the ruby-throated hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*. All age/sex and measurements are from Peter Pyle, *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, Vol. 1, 1997. Measurements were taken in accordance with Russell and Russell, North American Bander's Manual for Banding Hummingbirds (2001) North American Banding Council.

After the banding, there were approximately 180-200 visitors to the residence to view the hummingbird (Gearhart pers. comm).

Maxilla grooving: There were no striations ("grooving") on the upper maxilla when viewed through a 30X LED lighted loupe. This characteristic indicated a AHY (after hatch year) or adult bird.

Wing chord: The wing was measured using a digital caliper (.00 mm) from bend to tip of p10. Male BCHU wing chords range from 40.0-44.8 mm. This hummingbird's wing chord measured 41.27 mm. p7 -10 were wider than p1 - p5, characteristic of *Archilochus*. p10 was blunt and curved.

Wing molt: This hummingbird was in active molt of his flight feathers. p7-10 were a dull, faded brown (older) feathers, p6 was new and still in the sheath, having grown in halfway and p1-5 were shiny, dark black-brown feathers (new). The secondaries were faded and dull with some missing covert feathers.





p6

BCHU Wing showing molt of P6 (Dale Gearhart)

Tail: The tail was measured with a thin plastic millimeter rule, inserted to the base of the central rectrices and measured to the tip. Tail range for AHY-M BCHU is 23.7-28.3 mm. This hummingbird's tail measurement was 25.0 mm. There was no rufous coloring or white tips on any of the rectrices.

As per Pyle (pages 134 and 138), adult BCHU will have narrower outer rectrices and often with a nipple at the end on r5 (outermost tail feather). This can be seen in the following photo.



BCHU Tail feathers (Dale Gearhart)

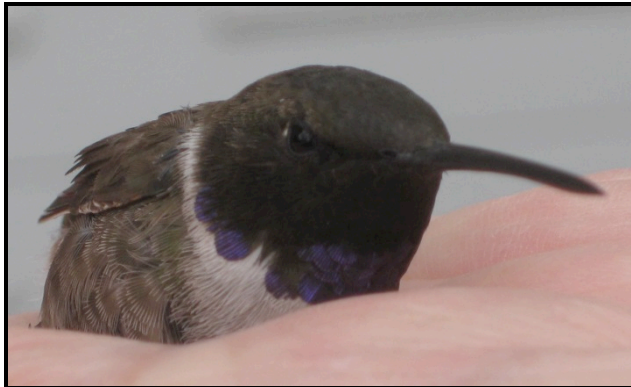
Exposed culmen: The culmen was measured with a digital caliper (.00 mm) on the dorsal surface of the maxilla, from the front edge of the feathers to the tip of the bill. Culmen measurements for adult male BCHU range from 16.0-20.5 mm. This hummingbird's culmen measured 19.38 mm.

Gorget feathers: The gorget was mostly black on the upper side closest to the chin, with the chin also being entirely black. Along the bottom of the gorget the feathers were iridescent amethyst purple, extending the entire width of the gorget. There were no iridescent feathers on the crown or nape. Two or three iridescent feathers were missing from the right side of the gorget.



BCHU chin, gorget and throat (Sandy Lockerman)

Throat: White feathers extended from the breast and around the sides of the neck.



BCHU white necklace of feathers (Sandy Lockerman)



BCHU white necklace (Wayne Laubscher)

Weight and Fat Score: 3.39 grams is a good, healthy weight for a male Black-chinned Hummingbird. The fat score of 0+ indicated the bird was not entering into pre-migratory condition, since fat is usually laid on in significant amounts (fat score >3) before departure. The BCHU remained at the residence until **XXXXXX**.

Age and sex: All measurements and visual characteristics indicated an AHY (after hatch year) male black-chinned hummingbird.

Body color: The flanks of the hummingbird were grayish-buff with no evidence of cinnamon or rufous coloration. The dorsal side of the hummingbird was a dull, green iridescent color.

Additional Photos:



BCHU Back (Gary Lockerman)



BCHU Side (Gary Lockerman)

Behavior: The black-chinned hummingbird was observed pumping his tail while hovering at the feeder. This characteristic is noted by Sibley and Williamson in their hummingbird field guides.

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2014-03-31 22:06:12
Observer's Name	Geoff Malosh
E-mail	pomarine@earthlink.net
Phone	412-735-3128
Observer's Address	Street Address: 450 Amherst Avenue City: Moon Township State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15108 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	many
Species (Common Name)	Black-chinned Hummingbird
Species (Scientific Name)	Archilochus alexandri
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult male
Observation Date and Time	03-31-2014 10:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S15681276
County	Franklin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Shady Grove
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	1872 Burkholder Road
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.7845549,-77.668249
Habitat	Feeder, suburban/rural yard
Distance to bird	30 feet
Viewing conditions	cloudy but no adverse viewing conditions
Optical equipment used	Canon 1D Mk IV, 500mm f/4; Leica Ultravid 10x42 binocular
Description	It came to my attention that no submission had yet been made for this bird, which was seen and photographed by hundreds of observers and banded by Sandy Lockerman. (I was guilty of this too.) I am uploading a few diagnostic

photos to put this on the official PORC record.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Feeding at a hummingbird feeder and foraging for insects in nearby trees

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes

During

n/a

After

n/a

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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[Hummingbird_BlackChinned_ShadyGrovePA_20131115_1D4_0_47C7942F.jpg](#)



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