



*Calliope hummingbird (Sandy Lockerman)*

**Calliope Hummingbird (CAHU)**

*Selasphorus calliope*

Banded December 1, 2012  
3200 Greenridge Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Lancaster County  
40.050187,-76.411203

Wing chord: 40.15 mm  
Tail: 20.5 mm  
Exposed culmen: 15.17 mm  
Percent grooving on maxilla: 80%  
Iridescent gorget feathers: 1

Band number: P24391  
Age: HY (hatching year)  
Sex: M (male)

Weight: 3.3 grams  
Fat: 1 (scale 0 – 5)  
R5 width: 3.56 mm

First observed: approx. November 11, 2012  
Last observed: December 10, 2012

Submitted by:  
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**Overview:** The bird was first observed at a backyard hummingbird feeder around November 11, 2012 at the home of Bob and Amy Weiss. I received word of the hummingbird through Scott Weidensaul who fielded an email from Mr. Weiss on November 25, 2012. Mr. Weiss received Scott's email address from Barbara Hunsinger, president of the Lancaster County Bird Club. The initial photo sent to Scott indicated that it was (at least) a female *Selasphorus*.

We (Shirley Hamilton and I) arrived at the residence in the late morning of December 1 and set up a cage trap. We immediately captured the bird. When I removed the bird from the holding bag, I realized that it was much smaller than the other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds that I had banded in Pennsylvania and Texas. Measurements were taken to confirm this observation before the smaller 5.4 mm band was placed on the right tarsus.

Measurements and plumage characteristics confirmed that this was a CAHU, a hummingbird smaller than a rufous (RUHU) or Allen's (ALHU). 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 (Weiss pers. comm).

**Maxilla grooving:** 80% of the upper maxilla had bill striations ("grooving") on it when viewed through a 20X LED lighted loupe. This characteristic indicated a HY (hatching year) bird.

**Wing chord:** The wing was measured using a digital caliper (.00 mm) from bend to tip of P10. Male CAHU wing chords range from 37.2-41.3 mm. This hummingbird's wing chord measured 40.15 mm. P10 was narrow and curved.

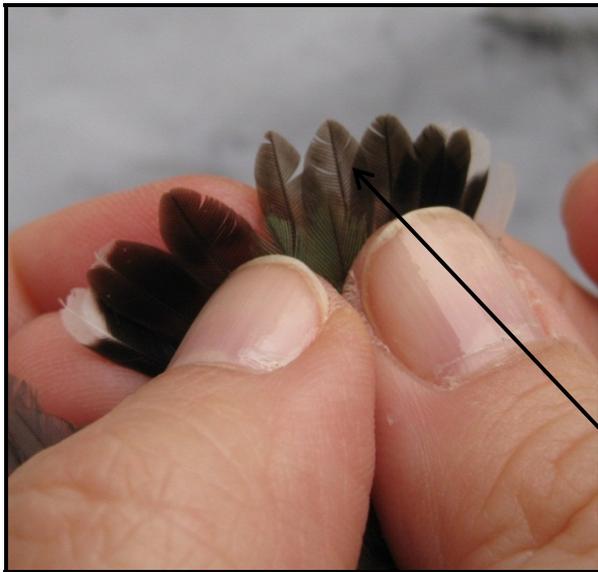


P10

CAHU Wing showing P10 (Shirley Hamilton)

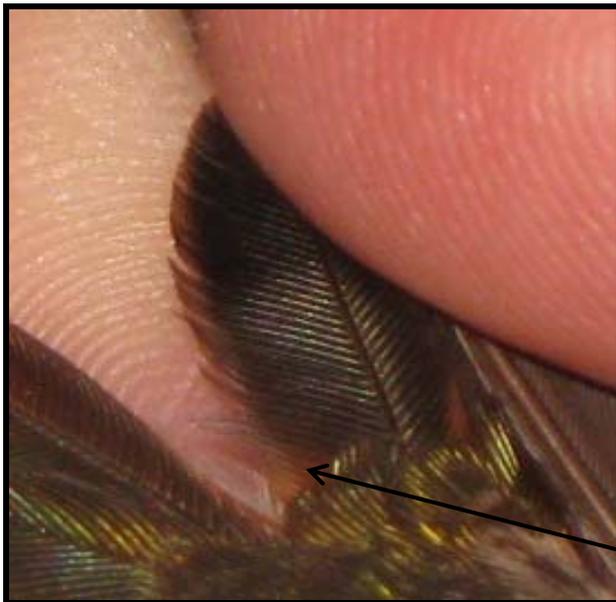
**Tail:** The tail was measured with a thin plastic millimeter rule, inserted to the base of the central rectrices and measured to the tip. Tail range in HY-M CAHU is 17.9-21.4 mm. This hummingbird's tail measurement was 20.5 mm.

The tail was short and squared off. R1 was broadly tipped black and was wedge-shaped, a characteristic not found in the RUHU or ALHU. It also had a small amount of rufous edging at the base of R1 further indicating a male CAHU. The width range of R5 in a HY-M CAHU is 3.1-4.0 mm. This hummingbird's R5 measured 3.56 mm.



R1

*CAHU Tail feathers (Shirley Hamilton)*



rufous edging on R1

*CAHU R1 (Sandy Lockerman)*

**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 male CAHU range from 12.8-15.7 mm. This hummingbird's culmen measured 15.17 mm.

**Gorget feathers:** The gorget was moderately heavy with bronze-green markings with one iridescent red violet feather in the lower center.



*CAHU Throat (Sandy Lockerman)*

**Weight and Fat Score:** 3.03 grams is a good, healthy weight for a male Calliope. The fat score of 1 indicates the bird was not entering into pre-migratory condition, since fat is usually laid on in significant amounts (fat score >3) before departure. The CAHU remained at the residence until December 10 and was observed to be drinking in earnest around December 5.

**Molt:** On the wing, all the primaries (PP) and secondaries (SS) were scored as “old” with no evidence of active molt. The rectrices also had not been replaced. This is in keeping with a HY age.

**Face Pattern:** This hummingbird had the distinctive face pattern of a white spot about the gape line of the bill and in front of the dark, a field mark for the Calliope Hummingbird.



*CAHU Profile Head (Sandy Lockerman)*

**Age and sex:** All measurements and visual characteristics indicated a HY (hatching year) male calliope.

**Additional Photos:**



*CAHU Back (Sandy Lockerman)*



*Bob Weiss releasing the CAHU (Shirley Hamilton)*



*CAHU showing squared tail, streaked throat (Harold Davis)*