

Calliope Hummingbird
Devon, Chester Co., PA
11/01/2012

On the above date, together with Wayne Laubscher, I was able to trap, identify and band a Calliope Hummingbird. The bird was first reported to the birding community by the homeowner Joe Flood on 10/27/2012 as a late season Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photos solicited from Joe were suggestive of a possible Calliope Hummingbird. Arrangements were then made to trap and identify the bird.

On November 1st at approximately 0830, Wayne Laubscher trapped the bird. While the bird was still in the trap it's very small size was quite noticeable. (see photo 001)

The bird was then processed for banding. (see photos 002 and 003)

The very short bill and tail are noticeable in these photos. The r1 feather is unlike that of a Rufous or Allen's, lacking any strong rufous color.

Measurements: (Pyle's references for imm. male Calliope in italics)

Wing Chord: 39.3 (*37.2-41.3*)

Tail Length: 17.5 (*17.9-21.4*)

Exposed Culmen: 14.5 (*12.8-15.7*)

Width of r5: 3.6 (*3.1-4.0*)

Weight: 2.66

Fat: 0

Grooving on bill: 70% (adults will have no grooving)

Gorget Feathers: 4 (magenta color)

The back was a bronzy-green with no rufous and the flanks were buffy. (see photos 004 and 005)

The combination of tail and bill measurements with the gorget color identifies this bird as an immature male Calliope Hummingbird. Handling a bird this small was definitely unsettling. (see photo 006).

Additional photo by Nick Pulcinella. (see photo 007)

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