



780-01-1992

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

DATE; April 25 1992

Location John Heinz NWR Philadelphia Co.

Time: 1500-1530

Observer: Nick Pulcinella  
201 Elm Ave  
Swarthmore Pa

Weather: Cloudy and overcast

Notes: Head- bright red-orange more red than orange  
this same color was also evident on the  
throat and breast and covered the head to  
the nape.

Belly and Flanks- medium green

Back and Wings - overall medium green

Undertail Coverts- same red-orange color

No vocalizations heard

It was very active, feeding and flycatching the  
entire time observed and because of this it would  
occasionally be hidden in the foliage for several  
minutes at a time.

One distant photograph was taken.

780-01-1992

July 10, 1992

Additional notes on the sighting of a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) at the John Heinz NWR at Tinicum on 24 April 1992

In my original report I failed to mention that the bird was a male in first spring plumage.

Elimination of similar species.

Scarlet Tanager- the bird I saw had uniformly greenish wings as opposed to the black wings of the Scarlet which the male retains in all plumages.

Western Tanager- except for the red-orange areas that I described in the original report, the bird was a medium-green color, not the yellow as in the alternate plumage of the Western male.

Hepatic Tanager- this bird lacked the plumpness that is apparent when first seeing the Hepatic and in fact it had a slim appearance.

Unfortunately I never really got a satisfactory look at the bill to use it as a definitive field mark. Even from the photo enlargement, bill size is hard to determine.

Unfortunately too, the bird remained silent during my observation. Other observers reported that it gave both the song and the call notes of a Summer Tanager, hopefully they will submit a report to P.O.R.C.

My experience with tanagers is 25+ years with both Scarlet and Summer in all plumages. I have seen Western in both basic and alternate plumages in the west. I have seen both sexes of the Hepatic in SE Arizona.

I hope these additional notes will be helpful.



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Summer Tanager**

Date of Sighting: **24 April 1992**

Observer(s): **Nick Pulcinella**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Nick Pulcinella**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 7/2/93