

780-02-1992 (4-26-92)  
780-03-1992 (5-2-92)

16/2

RARE SPECIES REPORT - Summer Tanager  
Piranga rubra

Cumberland County - Two Sightings

Don Henise

On Sunday evening, 26 April 1992, Ramsay Koury called to let us know about a Summer Tanager that had been found that day on the campus of Messiah College. The bird was originally found by a student who reported it to Deuane Hoffman. Deuane and Ramsay had both seen the bird on the 26th.

Robyn and I drove to Messiah College on Monday evening 27 April, arriving on campus around 5:20 PM. We searched for nearly an hour and a half before we found the bird in a maple tree in front of a dormitory. We found out later that this was the same tree where the bird was first found.

Our initial observation was for only a few seconds, but a few minutes later we found the bird again behind the dorm and observed it for close to a full minute before it disappeared into the woods. The bird was red all over; the back, head, face, throat and underparts were all red. The red on the back and head was about the color of a male Northern Cardinal, not nearly as bright as the Scarlet Tanager with which I am quite familiar. The underparts were lighter colored than the head and back. The wings of the bird had tinges of red but were darker than the rest of the body. The bill was light gray and the eyes dark. The bill was short and conical, but longer and thinner than a cardinal or grosbeak's bill. The size of the bird was judged to be the same size as a Scarlet Tanager. There were no other birds in close proximity to compare with it.

I observed the bird with 10 X 50 binoculars at less than 20 feet in excellent light. I have only had one prior experience with this species. I saw one adult male in Nashville, Tennessee in April 1990.

780  
02-1992

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)**

Date of Sighting: **26 April 1992 to 27 April 1992**

Location: **MESSIAH COLLEGE**

County: **CUMBERLAND**

Observer(s): **Don Henise**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Don Henise**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

*2-23-94*