

SUMMER

Scarlet Tanager

Indiana County

Margaret Higbee

780-04-1992

At 1240 on 24 April 1992 Carroll Labarthe and I observed a female Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) about 60 feet high in a bare deciduous tree along the observatory trail at Yellow Creek State Park. The tree was at a distance of about 120 feet. The bird appeared to be feeding as it hopped among the bare branches, giving us several different angles for observation.

The day had been overcast with rain and thunderstorms earlier in the morning; another storm was threatening. Observations were made with 10X40 Zeiss binoculars, 10X28 Bausch and Lomb binoculars, and a Swift variable power 15-60X spotting scope set between 15-20.

We noted that the bird was a tanager with an olive back and wings; the bird did not have black wings, nor did it have wingbars; the uppertail was red. The head had a reddish cast with no distinctive markings. The bird's chin was decidedly orange; the upper breast, orange tapering to a yellowish-orange belly. The undertail coverts were red, but the intensity of red increased on the undertail. The bill was not perceptibly very dark; it appeared rather pale.

We had been birding for more than four hours; Gloria Lamer had been with us but had left about 45 minutes before our sighting. Carroll and I were almost ready to head to the west end of the lake when we spotted the tanager. We watched the bird for almost five minutes before it flew off toward the parking lot, apparently startled by the sound of thunder. We followed, hoping to relocate the tanager, but we were unable to find it again. The entire time we watched it, it did not vocalize. Later that day around 1800 h. Gloria Lamer and Georgette Syster searched for the bird in the same area but were unable to find it.

RR 2, Box 166
Indiana, PA 15701

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Date of Sighting: 24 April 1992 to 24 April 1992

Location: YELLOW CREEK STATE PARK

County: INDIANA

Observer(s): Margaret Higbee

Carroll Labarthe

Date of Submission: 1992

Submitted by: Margaret Higbee

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		1	6					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

2-25-94