

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, PA 17555

September 26, 1997

Bill Murphy  
234 Orlemann Avenue  
Oreland, PA 19075

Dear Bill,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the female Summer Tanager you saw at Fort Washington S.P. on 13 May 1996 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. The committee was concerned that the description provided did not supply enough details of the bird's plumage to completely rule out the possibility of female Scarlet or Hepatic Tanager. Some members felt that both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers can show dusky or pale bills and that some female Scarlets and Hepatic Tanagers can show little contrast between the wings and the rest of the upperparts.

This of course, does not mean the bird was not a female Summer Tanager, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella  
Chairman

Record # 780-01-1996

P.S. Bill, if it any consolation, I voted for acceptance.

780-01-1996

F WSP 5-13-96 Female Summer Tanager Description

This day and the day before, had large numbers of Scarlet Tanagers moving through the park. This bird was seen for 15 minutes at close range 10 to 20 feet and low off the ground with Lica 8x32BA binoculars and by several other observers.

- 1 Bill - was bone colored.
- 2 Bird was not calling or singing.
- 3 Color was more orange-green than the yellow/green of the <sup>female</sup> Scarlet Tanager.
- 4 Wings were the same color as back and mantle not like the contrast of female Scarlet Tanager with black wings to olive green back. The only contrast was the darker orange/green upper parts to the lower, ~~parts~~ <sup>under</sup> parts which were a lighter orange/green.

Everyone has their own ideas of what a color is but the female Summer Tanager shown in the National Geo Field Guide depicts the ~~the~~ bird that I saw to a tee.

Fort Washington State Park

Bill Murphy

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

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

Date of Sighting: **13 May 1996 to 13 May 1996**

Location: **FORT WASHINGTON STATE PARK**

County: **MONTGOMERY**

Observer(s): **Bill Murphy**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Bill Murphy**

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					
S. Feldstein						X		
TOTALS			3	3		1		
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*L. C. Haas*

Date:

*2-22-97*