

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

8 February 2001

Michael R. Leahy  
P. O. Box 15  
Knox, PA 16232

Dear Mike,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Summer Tanager at Knox on 28 June 1997. After careful review, the committee regrets that it cannot accept this record. Five of us did vote to accept the record. The other two members felt that the bird was most likely a Summer Tanager but that the brief description did not rule out Hepatic Tanager -- very unlikely of course, but needing to be distinguished. (Six of the committee's seven votes are necessary for acceptance.)

The committee emphasizes that non-acceptance does not mean that the bird was not the species reported, but rather that the committee believes the documentation submitted does not support the identification conclusively.

We hope that this will not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rarities you may find in the future.

Finally, the committee apologizes for the unacceptably long delay before all members were able to vote on the record. Circumstances beyond our control caused the problem, and we believe that we are back on a timely track.

Sincerely,

For the Committee:  
Paul Hess, Chairman

P.S. Beginning this year observers will receive postcards acknowledging that the committee has received their documentation. In addition, whereas observers formerly were notified only when reports were not accepted (in disappointing or irritating letters like this one), they will now receive cards announcing that their records *have* been accepted.

Record #780-03-1997

780-03-1997

Michael R. Leahy

PO. Box 15  
Knox, Pa. 16232  
814-797-2287

## Documentation of Sighting

Date of Report  
7/28/97

To The PA. Ornithological Records Committee

**Sighting Date:** 6/28/97  
**Species:** Summer Tanager  
**Scientific Name:** *Piranga rubra*  
**Number Seen:** 1  
**Place:** The Merhten  
**City:** Knox  
**County:** Clarion  
**State:** PA  
**Nation:** USA  
**Habitat:** Deep woods  
**Record Number:** 878

I observed this bird at the parking area at the Merhten gate. The bird was on the ground, foraging in the grass at the edge of the road. When I first saw the bird, My reaction was "What is that". Although it appeared to be a Scarlet Tanager, I knew it was different. In comparing it with a Scarlet the differences are as follows: Bird was somewhat larger than a Scarlet. Color was more orange. Wings were dark with reddish streaking, but not black. Tail was not dark but orange like the back. Bill was larger than a Scarlets, longer and broader at the base. Body shape seemed more elongated with a more horizontal posture than a Scarlet. Weather this day was good, mostly sunny, temp.-low 80's. I observed this bird at close range ( 30 to 50 ft.) with Pentax 10X50 binoculars for aprox. 5 min.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Date of Sighting: 28 June 1997 to 28 June 1997

Location: KNOX

County: CLARION

Observer(s): Michael Leahy

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Michael Leahy

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					
P. Schwalbe			X					
K. Parkes			X					
R. Ickes			X					
P. Hess						X		
J. McWilliams				X				
T. Floyd			X					
TOTALS			5	1		1		
DECISION								

Comments:

*Second Round*

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

*4-19-99*

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round Two**

Species: Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

Date of Sighting: 28 June 1997 to 28 June 1997

Location: KNOX

County: CLARION

Observer(s): Michael Leahy

Date of Submission: 1997

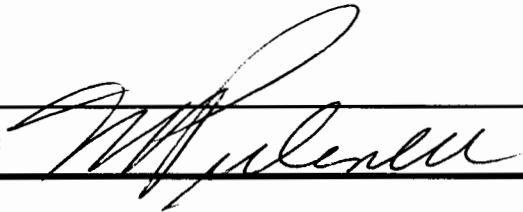
Submitted by: Michael Leahy

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman				X				
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams				X				
F. Haas			X					
P. Schwalbe				X				
TOTALS			3	3				1
DECISION				X				

Comments: 3/3/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

8/24/00