

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

8 February 2001

Tom Smith
c/o Richard Williams
Dauphin County Compiler
3 Parkside Ave.
Hummelstown, PA 17036

Dear Tom,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Summer Tanager you observed on Blue Mountain on 16 May 1998 (report forwarded to us by the county compiler). After careful review, the committee regrets that it cannot accept this record. Members felt that the bird may well have been a Summer Tanager but that the brief description was not sufficient for us to make a judgment on the identification.

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. We are urging all birders to include as many details as possible describing the bird's physical appearance and (if any) vocalization, because these sightings are very important for the state's ornithological records.

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 #780-02-1998

Summer Tanager 5-16-98

12:45 PM Robert's Valley
Just beyond Hawk Watch - top Mtn.

Description: Heard 1st, then seen,
all red - uniform - Male

Weather: Clear, sunny, calm

How far: 50 ft.

Binos: Swarovski SLC 8x30 WB

With: Frank Blum, Bio teacher
at Sussanock High Sch. birding
20+ yrs.

Seen & heard 5-10 min. Sang before &
after seeing it.

Attached is documentation
as submitted by Tom Smith
for the Summer Tanager
observed on 5/16/98.

780-02-1998

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Date of Sighting: 16 May 1998 to 16 May 1998

Location: BLUE MOUNTAIN

County: DAUPHIN

Observer(s): Tom Smith, Frank Blum

Date of Submission: 1998

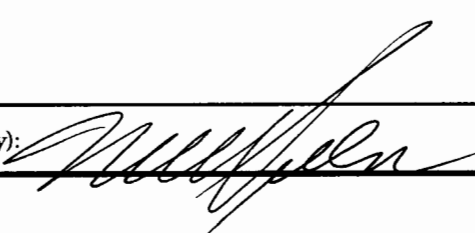
Submitted by: ~~Frank~~ ^{TOM} Smith

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Absent in
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman					X			
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes					X			
J. McWilliams				X				
B. Reid					X			
P. Rodewald					X			
TOTALS				1	5			1
DECISION								

Comments: 0/6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 1/14/07