

# 10: PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE:

SUBMITTED FOR ACCEPTANCE AS CLASS III RECORDS of RARE/UNUSUAL SPECIES -

1) - SUMMER Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) ♂ 28 MAY 2000

2) - LAWRENCE'S WARBLER (*Vermivora lawrencii*) ♂ 29 MAY  
(*Vermivora pinus* X *Vermivora chrysoptera*) THRU 2000  
23 JUNE

3) - HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*) FLEDGLING 18 MAY 2000

ALL OBSERVATIONS MADE BY, AND AROUND PROPERTY of JEFF PHEASANT 819 PINETOWN RD  
LEWISBERRY, N. YORK CO.

## DETAILS

### 1) SUMMER Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

DATE: 28 MAY 2000 TIME: 0819  
CONDITIONS: ~55° OVERCAST; MILD, LOW FOG

#### - FIRST ALERTED TO PRESENCE BY SONG:

SIMILAR TO RELATED SCARLETTANAGER (*P. olivacea*) IN BASIC "MELODY" of SING-SONG NOTES. BUT, UNLIKE *P. olivacea*'s BURRY, SLURRED, DELIVERANCE, THIS SONG WAS CLEARER (MORE WHISTLE LIKE WITH A TOUCH OF BURRINESS) AND GIVEN IN DISTINCT, SEPARATE NOTES; the WHOLE SONG (± 4 SECONDS TOTAL LENGTH, GIVEN WITHOUT MUCH VARIATION, AT RATE of ~ 6/MINUTE) DIVIDED INTO 4 MEASURES - the 1<sup>ST</sup> COMPRISED of 2 HALF-NOTES (2<sup>ND</sup> NOTE HIGHER) 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> COMPRISED of 4 QUARTER NOTES, VARYING UP AND DOWN, AND the 4<sup>TH</sup> COMPRISED of 4-5 "QUARTER" NOTES ENDING WITH A TOUCH of ENTHUSIASM (MOST of SONG DELIVERED DROLLY) IN UP-DOWN PAIR (OR TRIO WITH LAST 2 DROPPING IN SEQUENCE).

- THEN, LUCKY TO BE ~ 100 FT AWAY FROM SINGING ♂ - PERCHED ~ 50 FT. UP IN the OUTER EDGE of A BARE TREE, IT'S MORE TOWARD HORIZONTAL ATTITUDE IMMEDIATELY SEPARATING IT FROM THE SUPERFICIALLY SIMILAR N. CARDINAL. CLEARLY VISIBLE (SIDE VIEW), I OBSERVED HIM WITH 10X 42 PENTAX BINOCULARS - ALL RED (DULLISH) WITH DARKER RED ON WINGS - PALE BILL (TAN/BEIGE) - ROUNDED HEAD, BUT CROWN FEATHERS "CRESTED" AS HE THREW HIS HEAD UP SLIGHTLY TO DELIVER SONG. I CONTEMPLATED RUNNING IN HOUSE TO GET CAMCORDER, BUT A PASSING COOPER'S HAWK SENT HIM DOWN the ROAD, HIS SONG STILL HEARD AS I DID GO IN, BUT ONLY SILENCE WHEN I CAME BACK OUT.

STATUS: PA - RARE, IRREGULAR TO CASUAL VAGRANT AWAY FROM S.W. CORNER of STATE (McWILLIAMS 2000) - REGULAR (RARE; DETAILS REQUESTED) EXEMPT IN GREENE CO. (PORC P.B. 9; 3) / LOCAL - THIS REPORT, IF ACCEPTED, WILL BE MY 2<sup>ND</sup> SINGING ♂ IN 4 YRS (17 JUNE, 1997 - CLASS III; 780-02-1997 - PB 13; 1) WITH A POSSIBLE 3<sup>RD</sup> OCCURRENCE 6 JUNE 1998 - BRIEF, DISTANT SONG NOTED, BUT UNREPORTED DUE TO LACK of CONFIDENCE, BUT... ANOTHER SIGN of INFUX!?

### 2) LAWRENCE'S WARBLER (*Vermivora lawrencii*)

FIRST CONFIRMATION of PRESENCE  
DATE: 29 MAY 2000 TIME: ~ 0715

LOCATION: BOTTOMLAND of NARROW VALLEY, SEMI-WETLAND IN MIXED DECIDUOUS, HARD-WOOD FOREST w/ LARGE, OPEN AREAS THICK WITH REGENERATED UNDERGROWTH - OBSERVATION (AS WITH ALL EXCEPT ONE SUBSEQUENT SIGHTING) PREFACED BY SONG - VERY FAMILIAR, TYPICAL BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*V. pinus*) SONG - TYPE A - HIGH WIRY 2 NOTE INSECT-LIKE BUZZ - SECOND NOTE HIGHER - EACH NOTE ~ 1 SEC DURATION, RUN TOGETHER w/ NO PAUSE.

- THEN ♂ APPEARED LOW IN CLEARING ~ 20 FT AWAY AND ~ 10 FT UP IN BARE TREE, STILL SINGING. OBSERVED w/ 10X 42 PENTAX BINOCULARS FOR ~ 15 SEC - BOLD BLACK THROAT (LIKE CHICKADEE) AND EYE MASK w/ BRIGHT GOLDEN YELLOW UNDERPARTS, (TO WHITISH UNDERTAIL COVERTS) MALAR AREA AND FORECROWN.

CROWN, BACK AND WINGS GREENISH GRAY - TWO DISTINCT WING BARS, OFF WHITE TO YELLOWISH. TOO BAD IT'S THE RECESSIVE RESULT - WHAT A GEM!! - ♂ SEEN AGAIN NEXT DAY, CLOSE TO MY HOUSE (~ 1/3 MI FROM 1<sup>ST</sup>

STATUS: PA - RARE - 5 REPORTS DURING 1983-1989 (ATLAS) (BRAUNING 1992) - 37 REPORTS GLEANED FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> QTR. REPORTS - PA BIRDS, 1989 - 1999 VOLS 3-13 AVG of 3.7/YR - HIGH of 5, 1992, 1993, 1996 LOW - 1, 1989, 1999 DISTRIBUTION of REPORTS (FROM 24 COUNTIES - DAUPHIN, HIGH 5) MAINLY IN WEST/NORTHWEST AND SOUTH CENTRAL TO EAST, GENERALLY OCCURRING IN BLUE-WINGED AREAS AND ABSENT FROM GOLDEN-WINGED RANGE - MOST REPORTS (26) FROM SPRING - ALL MAY WITH BUTLER 1993 THE ONLY OTHER JUNE (AND JULY [BREEDING] REPORT. 3<sup>RD</sup> QTR REPORTS (11) FROM LATE AUG/SEPT (MIGRATION) / LOCAL - SINCE 1993 (YEAR I BEGAN DAILY ENUMERATION of BIRDS AROUND PROPERTY) MY BLUE-WINGED OBSERVATIONS HAVE STEADILY DECLINED FROM 19/1993 TO A SINGLE SIGHTING 1998 TO 2/1999, WITH BRUSH CLEARING BY NEIGHBOR AND MATURING WOODS ELIMINATING HABITAT - TIMBER HARVEST (1997) LET UNDERGROWTH THRIVE FOR RE ENTRY THIS YEAR! (?) - ONLY 2 GOLDEN WINGED OBSERVED - 12 MAY 95 AND 21 AUG 93 - NO KNOWN BREWSTER'S (EASILY MISSED WHEN UNEXPECTED) MY 1<sup>ST</sup> HYBRID (IF NOT FROM 2 GOLDEN-WINGED! (DUNN, GARRETT 1997 PG. 141)

SIGHTING - TERRITORY EDGE (?) THEN AGAIN 9 JUNE, IN ORIGINAL AREA. ON 10 JUN, I FOUND A BLUE-WINGED WARBLER IN ORIGINAL AREA, CARRYING AN INSECT IN ITS BILL (NO SINGING - ♀ !!? w/ NEST + YOUNG !!? - FOUND ♂ AGAIN 17 JUNE IN SAME AREA AND SONG HEARD 20 JUNE. 22 JUNE - ♂ BACK NEAR HOUSE - REPEATED ON 23 JUNE (MOVING AWAY FROM ORIGINAL AREA - DISPERSAL !!?) POSSIBLE ♂ AGAIN 24 JUNE IN UPLAND SLOPE WOODS, BUT TOO BRIEF A LOOK IN AREA - f KNOWN HOODED AND KENTUCKY WARBLERS TO BE SURE. PERSISTENCE IN SAME AREA AND SIGHTING of POSSIBLE MATE (CARRYING FOOD) LENDS SUPPORT TO POSSIBLE BREEDING STATUS, BUT UNCONFIRMABLE (SIGHTING of PROBABLE BLUE-WINGED JUVENILE ON 12 JULY AROUND HOUSE MAY ALSO BE INDICATIVE -)

### 3) HAIRY WOODPECKER (Picoides villosus)

DATE: 18 MAY 2000  
TIME: 1630

- HARDLY A RARE/UNUSUAL BIRD, BUT THE OBSERVATION OF A DEFINITIVE FLEDGLING [FRESH, BRIGHT WHITE AND BLACK PLUMAGE WITH A VIVID RED CROWN (ONLY - NO RED IN NUCHAL AREA) - PATCH DIVIDED DISCREETLY INTO TWO SIDES BY (WHITISH) MEDIAN LINE - A TYPICAL HAIRY TRAIT - SEEN IN MATURE MALE NUCHAL PATTERNS]

PIQUED MY INTEREST. COULD THIS CONCEIVABLY REPRESENT A NEW EARLY EGG DATE?! RESEARCH of MY REFERENCES UNCOVERED NO DATA ON FLEDGLING DATES EXCEPT 7/4 AS MEAN DATE (BRAUNING 1992) - EARLY EGG DATES WERE FOUND IN SEVERAL SOURCES WITH PENNA.'S DATE MOVING EARLIER ONE DAY FROM 4/12 (BRAUNING 1992) TO 4/11 (MCWILLIAMS 2000). ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED TO FIND EARLIER DATES FROM THE SOUTH, BUT, CURIOUSLY, BIRDS of MARYLAND (1996) LISTED 4/16 AND FLORIDA'S 4/10 (BENT, 1939 - ADMITTEDLY OVERTOATED) ONLY ONE DAY EARLIER THAN PENNA. OTHER DATES (BENT) MAINE 5/1 AND CALIFORNIA 3/23! / A BIT of BACKWARD EXTRAPOLATION USING THE OFT CITED NEST PHASE RANGE [INCUBATION - 11-(12-14)-15 DAYS PLUS NESTLING PERIOD \*28-30 DAYS] of = 39-45 DAYS, PUTS THE POSSIBLE EGG DATE AT ≤ 4/9 USING THE MINIMUM/OPTIMUM NUMBER. NEGATIVE VARIABLES of AN INHIBITIVE COLD SPELL (SUB-FREEZING ON 2-3 NIGHTS DURING EARLY INCUBATION PERIOD) AND PROBABLE DISTANCE TO NEST CAVITY (NOT PRINY TO EXACT LOCATION, BUT STRONG SUSPICION POINTS TO AREA ABOUT 1/3 - 1/4 MILE FROM FEEDER AREA - NOT LIKELY TO MAKE IT THAT FAR ON FIRST DAY OUT?!) COULD EASILY ADD A DAY OR TWO TO LENGTH of PERIOD, PUSHING IT INTO THE 4/7 RANGE! AH, BUT I CONJECT... HOPEFULLY IT WILL AT LEAST BE A NEW EARLY FLEDGLING DATE! (NOTE: 19 MAY - OBSERVED ADULT MALE FEEDING SUET TO FLEDGLING WITH RED CROWN - REPEATED OVER NEXT SEVERAL DAYS - WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER FLEDGLING, WITH NO RED AT ALL) \* <sup>UNSUBSTANTIATED/QUESTIONABLE LISTING - EHRlich 1988</sup> of 24(?) DAYS DISREGARDED

STATUS - PA - PERMANENT RESIDENT / LOCAL - SAME, WITH DRAMATIC INCREASE IN VISIBILITY SINCE BEGINNING - f "CONSPICUOUSNESS" STUDY STARTED 1/1/93. LARGELY ATTRIBUTED TO INFATUATION WITH MAGICAL SUET TREE AT MY FEEDER AREA, WHICH IS AVAILABLE ("FLOWERS") ALL YEAR LONG! ONLY ACCOUNTABLE 66 - f 360 DAYS IN 1993 TO 15<sup>th</sup> MOST CONSPICUOUS SPECIES 1999 (351 DAYS OUT of 365) OVERALL RANK FOR 7 YEARS (1993-1999) 22<sup>ND</sup> (1851 of 2539) - PREVIOUS FIRST FLEDGLING DATES (SIGHTINGS ALL AT SUET w/ PARENT(S))  
1995 - 18 JUN 1997 - 10 JUN 1999 - 30 MAY  
1996 - 12 JUN 1998 - 29 MAY 2000 - 18 MAY

## REFERENCES

BAICICH, P.J., C.J.O. HARRISON, 1997, A GUIDE TO NESTS, EGGS, AND NESTLINGS of NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS, 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION, ACADEMIC PRESS

BENT, A.C., 1939, LIFE HISTORY of NORTH AMERICAN WOODPECKERS, SMITHSONIAN BULLETIN 174, REPRINTED 1964, DOVER PUBLICATIONS

BRAUNING, D., ED., 1992, ATLAS of BREEDING BIRDS IN PENNA., UNIV. of PITTSBURGH PRESS

DUNN, J.L. AND K.L. GARRETT, 1997, A FIELD GUIDE to the WARBLERS of NORTH AMERICA, PETERSON FIELD GUIDES, HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

EHRlich, P.R., D.S. DOBKIN, D. WHEYE, 1988, THE BIRDERS HANDBOOK, SIMON & SCHUSTER

HAAS, FRANKLIN C. AND BARBARA M., EDS., 1989-1999, PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS, VOLS 3-13

HARRISON, H.H., 1975, BIRDS' NESTS PETERSON FIELD GUIDES, HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN

ILIFF, M.J., R.F. RINGLER, J.L. STASZ, 1996, FIELD LIST of the BIRDS of MARYLAND, MD. AVIFAUNA NO. 2, MD. ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 3RD EDITION

MCWILLIAMS, G.M. AND D.W. BRAUNING, 2000 BIRDS of PENNA., CORNELL UNIV. PRESS

STOKES, D., 1979, A GUIDE TO BIRD BEHAVIOR, VOL. I, STOKES NATURE GUIDES, LITTLE BROWN

WINKLER, H. ET AL., 1995, A GUIDE TO WOODPECKERS of the WORLD, HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**TABULATION - Round One**

Species: Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Date of Sighting: 28 May 2000 to 28 May 2000

Location: LEWISBURY

County: YORK

Observer(s): Jeffrey Pheasant

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Jeffrey Pheasant

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

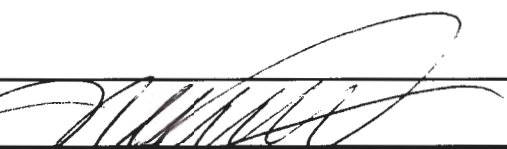
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes			X					
B. Reid			X					
<del>P. Rodewald</del> R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 11/24/02