





780-02-2000

## Summer Tanager

*Piranga rubra*

**Location:** Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pa

**Date:** May 13, 2000

**Time:** 4:00 to 4:30 PM

**Weather:** clear, wind southwesterly to about 15 mph

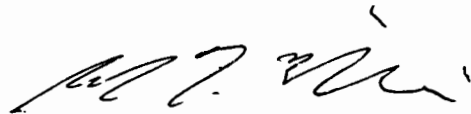
**Observer:** Jerry McWilliams

**Optics:** Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular

**Viewing distance:** As close as 75 feet

**Details of sighting & description:** An immature male Summer Tanager had been identified by Louise Chambers in the morning, but after searching for the bird in the rain for about an hour I could not find it. I went back at 4:00 PM and observed the bird about half way up in a cottonwood tree near the restrooms at the north pier. It began to actively feed by flying down to the tops of the Japanese honeysuckle and catching prey before flying back into the tree. I studied the bird at leisure before taking photographs. The following details I noted: It had the typical shape of a tanager, but appeared larger than a Scarlet Tanager. The bill appeared heavier than a Scarlet Tanagers bill and looked dirty white. The head down to the lower breast and mantle were a medium red-orange. There were small patches of red-orange on the flanks. The nape, lower breast, belly, and undertail coverts were pale orange-yellow. The tail and wings were pale brownish-yellow, darker than the dingy orange-yellow underside. Hepatic Tanager has a dark bill and with a grayish ear patch, and the bodies of immature male Scarlet Tanagers at this time of year are nearly always completely deep red-orange with black or dark gray-brown wings and tail. Sometimes immature male Scarlet Tanagers show some patches of greenish-yellow, not orange-yellow on the body.

I did not hear the Summer Tanager vocalize, however it was interesting to hear a Gray Catbird at the same site giving the Summer Tanager call, "chickety-tuck-tuck." See photograph.



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

Species: Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

Date of Sighting: 13 May 2000 to 13 May 2000

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

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> <sup>R. Leberman</sup> | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| M. Sharp                                      | X       |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |
| TOTALS  | 5       |          | 2         |            |            |            |         |         |
| DECISION                                      |         |          |           |            |            |            |         |         |

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

11/24/00