

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380

11 March 2003

Nancy Juris
380 N. 49th St.
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for submitting documentation of the Summer Tanager on 2 July 2000 at Derry Township. After careful review, the Committee has voted not to accept this record.

The Committee's vote was two in favor of acceptance and five not in favor. Those who voted to accept it felt that a red bird with a white beak could be nothing else, but the majority believed that the description was much too brief to allow assigning the bird to any species at all. One commented, "Why not a cardinal with a lighter bill than usual or with sunlight reflecting off the bill and making it appear light?" Another noted that no size, shape, or other features were given, making it impossible for a person who did not see it to judge whether might even have been a tropical caged bird that had escaped, such as one of the many lorys and lorikeets sold for pets.

Let me emphasize that our decision does not necessarily imply that the bird was not a Summer Tanager, but simply that the Committee felt that acceptance required more unequivocal evidence. We hope that our non-acceptance in this case will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities you find.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chair

Record No. 780-03-2000

780-03-2000

RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: Summer Tanager Date of this Observation: 7/2/2000

Date Found: 7/2/2000 Last Date Seen: _____

Location: HERSHEY FIELDS NEXT TO THE "OLD" BRUSH PILE.

Township/City: Derry Twp. (Hershey) County: Dauphin

Person Writing this report: NANCY JURIS

Address: 380 N. 49th ST.

HARRISBURG PA 17111 Phone: 717 564-1479

Other Observers: CARL DID NOT SEE IT WELL ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY.

Who found the bird first: _____

Other documentation Included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored? _____

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed—Please do not write on back of this form)

A RED BIRD FLEW TOWARD US ACROSS THE FIELD NEXT TO THE BRUSH PILE. AS IT APPROACHED, I NOTED THE "WHITE" BEAK. IT FLEW OVER MY HEAD AND SHOWED A BRIGHTER RED BREAST THAN THE BODY. THE WINGS WERE ALSO RED.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)
 Date of Sighting: 2 July 2000 to 2 July 2000
 Location: DERRY TOWNSHIP
 County: DAUPHIN
 Observer(s): Nancy Juris
 Date of Submission: 2000
 Submitted by: Nancy Juris

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. Jokes J. Stanley			X					
B. Reid					X			
B. Leberman R. Redcwait					X			
M. Sharp					X			
TOTALS			2	1	4			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 2/5/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 11/4/01