

SUMMER Tanager

780-02-2004

## Unusual Bird Report

Person submitting data--Charles Crunkleton

Address--202 Wiltshire Dr., Chalfont, Pa. 18914

Date of Report--July 13th, 2004

Observers--Elaine Ryan, Chuck Crunkleton

Date Seen--May 8th, 2004

How Long Observed--10 minutes

Where Observed--Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co., Pa.

Conditions of Observation--It was in the early evening, about 5:30P.M. It was still very bright out, the sun beginning to set in front of us. There were few clouds, and we were looking NW, but the surrounding tall trees blocked the direct sun.

Behavior & Habitat--The bird stayed and fed (?) in a young deciduous tree (ash or locust, not 100% sure). It looked to be feeding, but I could not see what it might be eating. The tree was only 20 ft. high, still budding in the early spring, and did not have many full-grown leaves. It was in clear view most of the time, moving deliberately. We were just on the other side of the stream, directly opposite the bird, maybe 30 feet away.

Optics--I was using a Leica 10x42 BN, and Elaine was using a Zeiss Classic 7x42

Species--Summer Tanager (*Piranga Rubra*). 1 Adult Female

Description--At first glance, the color of the bird suggested a female Baltimore Oriole. We had seen quite a few orioles that day; we noticed more orioles in the area than in most years. However, there was something different about this bird. It had no wing bars like a Baltimore Oriole would. The bill was very large and thick, and silvery, instead of thin and pointed. These two field marks ruled out oriole for me, and instead started me thinking tanager. The bird was uniformly a mottled deep orange/dark yellow color. The back of the bird was a slightly darker hue than the underparts. The color of the wings blended with the color of the back: they were not darker than the back. The bird seemed large and chunky, compared to the obvious Scarlet Tanager seen earlier that day. The head appeared big, and often took on a domed shape, even seeming to have a slight crest. The tail was long, and held up above the level of the back many times.

Similar Species--This was a female Summer Tanager, not a male. It did not show any red, even as a first year bird would. We had been on the Dry Tortugas just a few weeks earlier, where we had seen over a dozen Summer Tanagers.

It was not an oriole, there were no wing bars.

It was not a female Scarlet Tanager. Female Scarlet's show a greenish/olive color, the wings are noticeably darker, and the bill is smaller.

Other possibilities include some finches and warblers, but most of these are too small, or have wrong bill shape, or are patterned.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Date of Sighting: 13 July 2004 to 13 July 2004

Location: MAXATAWNY

County : BERKS

Observer(s): Elaine Ryan, Chuck Crunkleton

Date of Submission: 2005

Submitted by: Elaine Ryan, Chuck Crunkleton

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

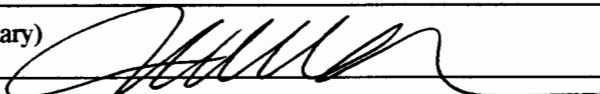
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
J. Heller			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 7/24/05