

Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

Species (common & scientific): Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)
Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** Male
Age(s) & Plumage(s): First Spring, Variable, Red head and yellow underbelly
Date Seen: 5/14/07 **Time:** 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Where Seen (Town/County): Edison (just south of Doylestown), Bucks County
Exact Location: Archery Course section of the Bucks County Fish & Game Commission on the dead-end section of Turk Road.

Observer Reporting:

Name: A. William Graham, Jr.
Address: 1778 Turk Road, Doylestown, PA 18901
E-mail: grahamtree@verizon.net
Telephone (optional):
Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): none

Distance to Bird: 35 feet
Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Sunny bright day; sun over left shoulder.

Optical Equipment Used: Olympus 8x42 EXWP I binoculars

Habitat: Sugar maple, White Ash, and White pine mixed forest – seen in the deciduous trees.

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage; bill, eye, & leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): The size reminded me of a Baltimore Oriole. The head was red, but the body was yellowish. Since this was my first sighting of a Summer Tanager, I at first thought of a scarlet tanager, but only the head was red. Based on my first impression, I immediately looked up tanagers and found the illustration of the 1st spring male bird in my copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* that I always carry on my bird walks. It was unmistakably what I was looking at.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Feeding, flying from tree to tree, and vocalizing.

Vocalizations: Two distinct types of calls heard: the first was oriole like, and the second sounded like “took took” and was fairly loud. I first noticed the call from about 50 yards away and had no trouble hearing it. It was the second call that attracted me to look for the bird as I did not recognize the call.

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report):

Photo: no **Video Recording:** no **Audio Recording:** no

Drawing: no

Name, Address, e-mail, telephone (optional) of photographer, etc.

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Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others): According to my copy of *Birds of Bucks County* it is rare but has been seen in the county. Sibley shows that birds are occasionally seen north of its usual range. The vocalizations, the exact match with the illustration in Sibley, and the past sightings in Bucks County all confirmed the i.d.

Discussion (*Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it*): Not that I can think of now.

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: I have regularly seen scarlet tanagers. I bird on a regular basis and keep a daily list of birds seen and have had a lifelong interest in birding. I have birded during pleasure trips all across the United States and have a pretty descent repertoire of bird songs that I can recognize. I own a spotting scope and often carry it on my bird walks but not this time.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): Yes. The bird is distinctive from anything else, I observed the bird over at least a 15 minute period getting numerous looks at the bird at all angles, I heard the bird calling and recognized that its call was different than other birds I regularly hear and I heard two distinct types of calls.

References:

During Observation: Sibley Guide to Birds

After Observation: Birds of Bucks County

Date of report: 5/15/07

Signature of Observer: A. William Graham, Jr.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Date of Sighting: 14 May 2007 to 14 May 2007

Location: EDISON

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): A. William Graham

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: A. William Graham

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

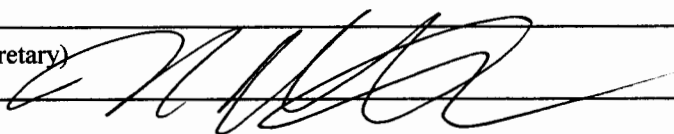
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
E. Witmer				X				
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			6	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6 / 1

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

6/21/08

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Date of Sighting: 14 May 2007 to 14 May 2007

Location: BUCKS

County : EDISON

Observer(s): A. William Graham

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: A. William Graham

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

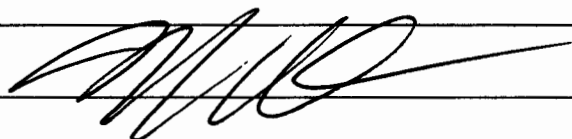
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson T. Johnson				X				
J. Stanley B. Witmer			X	X				
E. Witmer				X				
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			5	2				
DECISION								

Comments: ~~5/2~~ GO TO 2ND ROUND
5/2

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

12/6/07