

Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

750-03-2011

(Species) Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

Number of individuals Sex(es) 1 female

(Age Plumage) female/juv colored

(Date Time) 10.27.2011

(Location) Philadelphia

(Exact Site) East Fairmount Park, Small Park on Kelly Dr / N Brewery Hill Dr

(Observer Name) Matthias Feuersenger

(Observer Address) Collinistr.12a, Mannheim 68161, Germany

(Observer Email) matthias.feuersenger@gmx.de

(Habitat) woodland edge

(Distance) 100 ft

(View Conditions) overcast, with light showers

(Optical Equip) binoculars, 10 x 42

(Description) bird slightly smaller than Northern Cardinal. In general proportions and jizz not unlike Baltimore Oriole but head larger and bill stronger. Generally appearing more finch-like than Oriole. Tail most of the time raised above wing tips. Crown of head a bit pointed, appearing almost crested when feathers raised. Overall light greenish colour, more olive and darker on back and wings, lighter on head, rump, tail and undersides. Belly area with a hard to describe warm green-orange tinge (appeared almost like glowing).

Wings: edges to median and greater coverts forming faint indistinct olive greenish wing bars.

Distinct light-greenish eye ring around dark eye. Faint dark loreal line in otherwise plain unmarked greenish face.

Relatively long, strong, slightly decurved bill (appearing almost as long as head). Bill colour pale blue-ish horn.

Greyish legs and feet. Rather short legged appearance

(Behavior) Bird was discovered flying into a tree and feeding on berries. It subsequently was observed moving around in this and neighbouring trees, feeding. Also aggressive interaction with Eastern Phoebe.

The bird was observed for about 20 min during which I could obtain prolonged good to very good views of it from a distance of about 100 down to 60 feet.

(Vocalizations) none heard during time of observation

(Separation) hepatic tanager should be grayer overall with orange tinged breast and throat

western tanager should have smaller bill, dark wings with distinct wing bars, dark tail, darker back

scarlet tanager should have smaller bill, dark tail, more uniform greenish colour overall, obviously darker wings

(Discussion) Hence the species was previously unknown to me and I didn't carry a field guide along, I studied the bird carefully and spoke all observed features on a voice recorder to sort out later. I knew immediately that I was seeing a bird new to me and that it was a Tanager. I did not know which species.

Back in the hotel a view into the Sibley Guide to birds immediately led to the identification as Summer Tanager. The bird there described as "adult female western" matches the bird I saw almost 100% only missing the orange tinge to the belly.

(Experience) No experience with Summer Tanager

I have seen Western Tanager males and females and Scarlet Tanager females before

(Positive) I am totally convinced that the bird seen was a female or juvenile coloured Summer Tanager. The time spent actually watching the bird with the knowledge that it was a new one for me and thus the need to record and mentally engrave all diagnostic features for identification later on leaves me 100% positive on the ID of this bird.

I am from Germany and in the lucky position to travel to the US twice a year on business trips. I am mostly unaware of the individual status of almost all American bird species and only found out today that Summer Tanager is considered rare in Philadelphia (particularly at that time of the year). Had I already joined ebird then and known about the status I certainly would have tried to inform other birders about the observation.

(During Observation) none

(References After Observation) The Sibley Guide to Birds

(Report Date) Nov 12, 2011

## Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Fill in all relevant fields and then click on the "Submit by Email" button at the end of the form to send it to the PORC Secretary.

**NOTE:** The fields scroll down as you type to permit as much text as needed.  
The **RESET** button clears all of the fields if you wish to start over with a blank form.

Species (Common and Scientific Name): Summer Tanager (Piranga rubra)

Subspecies, if known

Number of individuals Sex(es) 1 female/juv colored

Age(s) and Plumage(s) (E.g. Immature; Adult in Breeding Plumage; Year for Gulls; Basic or Alternate If You Prefer Those Terms; State of Molt If Applicable): female/juv colored

Date and Time of Observation 10.27.2011

Location (City, Borough, Township) Philadelphia

Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road) East Fairmount Park, Small Park on Kelly Dr / N Brewery Hill Dr

### Observer Reporting:

Name Matthias Feuersenger

Address State Zip Collinistr.12a, Mannheim 68161, Germany

E-mail (Optional) matthias.feuersenger@gmx.de

Phone (Optional)

Other Observers (Only Those Who Saw and Identified the Bird with You):

Habitat (E.g. Mowed Field, Woodland Edge, Any other details) woodland edge

Distance to Bird (Specify feet, yards, etc.) 100 ft

Viewing Conditions (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) overcast, with light showers

Optical Equipment Used binoculars, 10 x 42

Description (include as much detail as you observed – size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

bird slightly smaller than Northern Cardinal. In general proportions and jizz not unlike Baltimore Oriole but head larger and bill stronger. Generally appearing more finch - like than Oriole. Tail most of the time raised above wing tips. Crown of head a bit pointed, appearing almost crested when feathers raised.

Overall light greenish colour, more olive and darker on back and wings, lighter on head, rump, tail and undersides. Belly area with a hard to describe warm green-orange tinge (appeared almost like glowing).

Wings: edges to median and greater coverts forming faint indistinct olive greenish wing bars.

Distinct light-greenish eye ring around dark eye. Faint dark loreal line in otherwise plain unmarked greenish face.

Relatively long, strong, slightly decurved bill (appearing almost as long as head). Bill colour pale blue-ish horn.

Greyish legs and feet. Rather short legged appearance

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Bird was discovered flying into a tree and feeding on berries. It subsequently was observed moving around in this and neighbouring trees, feeding.

Also aggressive interaction with Eastern Phoebe.

The bird was observed for about 20 min during which I could obtain prolonged good to very good views of it from a distance of about 100 down to 60 feet.

Vocalizations

Supporting evidence if any: (Check all that apply)

Photograph

Video Recording

Audio Recording

Drawing

**Photographer/recorder/illustrator:**

Name

Address

City State Zip

E-mail (Optional)

Phone (Optional)

**Please send a copy of the photograph, drawing, or recording to:**

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
613 Howard Ave.  
West Chester, Pa 19380  
Nickpulcinella@comcast.net

**If this is a dead bird:**

General Condition

If collected (by permit),  
location of specimen if  
known

Separation from similar species  
(How you eliminated others)

hepatic tanager should be grayer overall with orange tinged breast and throat  
western tanager should have smaller bill, dark wings with distinct wing bars, dark tail,  
darker back  
scarlet tanager should have smaller bill, dark tail, more uniform greenish colour overall

Discussion – anything else  
relevant to the observation that  
will aid the committee in  
evaluating it:

Hence the species was previously unknown to me and I didn't carry a field guide along, I  
studied the bird carefully and spoke all observed features on a voice recorder to sort out  
later. I knew immediately that I was seeing a bird new to me and that it was a Tanager. I  
did not know which species.

Previous experience with this  
and/or similar species

No experience with Summer Tanager  
I have seen Western Tanager males and females and Scarlet Tanager females before

Are you positive of your  
identification? (Why or why not)

I am totally convinced that the bird seen was a female or juvenile coloured Summer  
Tanager. The time spent actually watching the bird with the knowledge that it was a new

**References Consulted:**

During Observation

After Observation

Date of this Report:

(Click on the box and select  
date from calendar)

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Date of Sighting: 27 October 2011 to 27 October 2011

County : PHILADELPHIA

Location : EAST FAIRMOUNT PARK

Observer(s): Matthius Feuersenger

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Matthius Feuersenger

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
D. DeReamus			X				
A. Guarente			X				
T. Johnson			X				
B. Coulter			X				
R. Koury			X				
D. Weber					X		
G. Malosh			X				
TOTALS			6		1		
DECISION			X				

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/11/12