

Species: Summer Tanager -- *Piranga rubra*

Number of individuals: 1

Age/Plumage: male first year male

Date of Observation: 9:00 a.m. on 7/4/12

Location: Cornwall Borough 711 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042 -- Spring Hill Acres Development.

Observer Reporting: Jonathan Heller 720 Aspen Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042jonathan.heller@comcast.net.

Other Observers: none at initial sighting.

Habitat: mostly deciduous woods with some edge habitat along the road

Distance to bird: 30-40 feet.

Viewing Conditions: sunny and clear -- good lighting.

Optical Equipment: none at the initial sighting.

Description: That morning I was out for a jog and heard a call which I was sure was a Summer Tanager. I would describe it as Pit-ti-tuck -- three or four syllables. I tracked it to 711 Aspen Lane and saw it sitting on an exposed branch. The head and breast were blotchy reddish and the rest of the bird was yellowish or yellowish green. The size and shape was similar to Scarlet Tanager which is common in the area. The head seemed a bit bigger with a bit of a crested appearance. The bill was pale. The wings were not black, ruling out Scarlet Tanager. There were no wing bars ruling out something like Western Tanager. Without binoculars I didn't see much additional detail. About a month earlier I had heard a bird giving an agitated call (not just the contact call) about a quarter mile west of here. It sounded like a Summer Tanager, but I couldn't verify it visually even though I did see it. It was too dark and no binoculars. I just dismissed it since I didn't hear anything the following day at that location. In retrospect, that was probably the first contact with the Summer Tanager in the neighborhood. On 7/5/12 I was not able to see the bird, but I did hear it singing down towards 708 Aspen. On 7/6/12 I was able to hear it extensively again at 708 Aspen, but with the limited time I had before I work I did not see it. Tim Becker was able to see it and mentioned that he

saw it carrying food which was interesting to say the least. On 7/7/12 many people showed up and were able to see the bird. I am not sure who discovered it, but a nest was found at 708 Aspen after people noticed both a male and female frequenting a tree in that area and carrying food. There were at least two young.

Behavior: Sitting on a branch before it moved back into the woods. Later on both the male and female were carrying food to the nest at 708 Aspen. The birds were very vocal (both calling and singing) before 8:00 a.m. I would sometimes see the female sitting motionless at the nest for 10-15 minutes. Then I would hear the male singing and shortly after that the female would fly off only to be replaced by the male bringing in food for the young.

Supporting evidence: photos by Alex Lamoreaux

References Consulted: During observation none

After observation Sibley



