

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-06-02 15:51:53
Observer's Name	sharon furlong
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Observer's Address	Street Address: 133 bristol road City: feasterville State / Province: pa Postal / Zip Code: 19053 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	carol fitzpatrick
Species (Common Name)	Summer Tanager
Species (Scientific Name)	Piranga Rubra
Number of individuals	2
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult males, breeding plumage
Observation Date and Time	05-08-2016 10:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	sorry, i don't know how to do this.
County	bucks county
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Langhorne, Pa.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	core creek state park
Habitat	two places: first: off to side of park road, feeding in dark colored foliage and on the ends of branches: second: bright sunlight, very close, feeding in low, young trees on edge of field ecotone, on the edges of these trees.
Distance to bird	first one: no more than 20 feet, with it being no more than 20 feet overhead; second one: no more than 12 feet with the bird feeding no more than 10 feet over our heads. allowed us to get very very close.
Viewing conditions	clear day, bright sunlight, no breeze. perfect viewing conditions
Optical equipment used	8.5x 42 Swarovski binoculars
Description	the size of a scarlet tanager, maybe a bit larger. brownish red wings not black. so close to second bird that we could see flecks of yellow/gold in the wings. head was a bit "fuller" as well as the bill in comparison to the Scarlet Tanager. both birds were easily seen, feeding in a different pattern than other birds in this area and immediately attracted the attention of Carol Fitzpatrick (first bird). both birds were eating so judiciously that they tolerated our creeping closer and closer to them.

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

constant feeding. small movements in order to continue to feed, both did not fly long distances at all as they changed position. we left both birds after a long while when they just moved incrementally deeper into the foliage, rather than fly off. both birds were in separate areas of the park and one was brighter than the other, thus making us both believe it was two separate birds.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

brownish wings, not black. thicker bill and a slightly larger more bulky appearance. different feeding patterns from both the scarlet tanager and the northern cardinal. one bird had gold flecking interspersed (sparsely) in its folded wing.

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

both of us saw it. Carol tried to photograph it but reported the photos were not good enough to submit. both of us noted the differences in bird behavior and id marks. both of us have been birding for years in different places in the united states and indeed, other parts of north america and central america. both of us have good optics that we have owned and used for years also. both of us have seen this summer tanager in the lower middle atlantic and southern states. i saw it all over arizona and southern texas as well. it is far from being a life bird for either of us. it was however, the first time we had seen it, and so close, in bucks county. however, please be advised, summer tanagers were reported that same month in philadelphia as well.

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

yes, see above.

During

national geographic society Field Guide to the Birds of North america

After

Sibley's Guide; Kenn Kaufmann's Guide

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