

Summer Tanager in Essex County: My summer home near Elizabethtown, Essex Co., is in a clearing on a wooded slope, altitude 770'. Just after 10:00 a.m. on 30 May, 1976 I heard calls consisting of five or six fast notes in a monotone, with the pattern of a Wood Thrush's sputter. The tone was sufficiently flatter and harder to make me suspect the bird to be a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). I could see it moving through the branches of tall birch trees actively fly-catching. It was singing a loud, full song, surprisingly like a Scarlet Tanager. I was anticipating checking all tanager calls in the literature when the bird came out in full view, still actively fly-catching. It was bright rose red except for the wings, rump and belly which were golden-olive, and the bill was large, long and horn colored—unmistakably a Summer Tanager.

During this time, a Scarlet Tanager (*P. olivacea*) was heard singing farther in the woods, an identification subsequently verified both visually and by hearing the usual two-note "chip-churr." The Summer Tanager moved uphill into the edge of deep woods and was not found again. I have long been familiar with this species in the south where I have heard its usual fast robin-like song, and in New York City parks I have seen a number of individuals in May, with patchy rose and olive plumage. So far as I am aware, this is the first occurrence in northeastern New York State.

It is interesting to conjecture that this individual may have been raised in an area of overlap with breeding Scarlet Tanagers, with resulting influence on the song. On the other hand, Ridgway in *Bent* considers the songs of the two species similar. The song, incidentally, was twice heard by Mike Peterson, whom I called immediately, as I held the phone at the open door.

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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest in Essex County: On May 29, 1976, the author, together with Deborah Anson, Teresa Anson, and Patricia Taber, canoed to Schuyler Island, Lake Champlain, located in the Town of Chesterfield, Essex County. Owned by the State of New York, Schuyler Island is "Wild Forest" land within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park. Approximately three-quarters of a mile long by one-half mile wide, the island lies about a half-mile off Trembleau Point, at lat. 44°30', long. 73°21', and includes open fields, overgrown pastures, stands of hardwoods and conifers, and several low boggy areas.

At 2:30 p.m., as our two canoes passed a small hardwood swamp on the east shore of the island, Deborah Anson noted a small grayish bird with a white belly feeding in the shrubbery. Upon landing, we quickly located a foraging Blue-gray