

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Scarlet Tanager Breeding Biology:** During the 1994 and 1995 breeding seasons we added the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's "Project Tanager" to our summer study activities. In two years, we were able to confirm several aspects of Scarlet Tanager breeding biology reported in the literature and add some unique observations of nest site/tree type selection. All observations were made in Schuyler County at altitudes ranging from 500 to 1700 feet and in wood lots of varying sizes. Although most data were constant from site to site, host tree selection varied widely. Nests were wholly constructed by the female, averaged 50 feet above the ground and were generally quite flimsy. All nests were located a good distance from the trunk at a point where the supporting branch was of approximately one inch in diameter. Twenty nests in ten species of host tree were distributed as follows: Sugar Maple (4), Shagbark Hickory (3), White Oak (3), American Beech (3), Hemlock (2), and one each in Red Oak, Black Locust, American Elm, Yellow Birch and White Pine. Clutch size averaged 4, with one nest of 5. Eggs were incubated only by the female who was fed on nest by the male. The altricial nestlings had distinct yellow gapes and bright red mouths. Amazingly, all fledged in 15 days and were then fed by both parents for another two weeks, by which time some of the young were well into molt. A single whistle, not heard from adults, was interpreted as the young birds' call for food.

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