

**CUYAHOGA VALLEY TOWPATH TRAIL CENSUS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - JULY 2022**  
(CVTTC)

**HISTORY & FACTS of the JULY CENSUS**

JULY		13-YEAR TOTALS of SPECIES / INDIVIDUALS						
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
68 / 823	74 / 935	72 / 1,152	76 / 1,601	66 / 1,008	65 / 1,006	79 / 1,293	71 / 1,014	75 / 1,261
2019	2020	2021	2022					
73 / 811	74 / 1,653	76 / 816	73 / 946					

Most Species seen in July : 79 on 07/08/2016.

Most Individual Birds seen in July : 1,653 on 07/03/2020.

Fewest Species seen in July : 65 on 07/11/2015.

Fewest Individual Birds seen in July : 811 on 07/05/2019.

Species Average in July : 72.4 Species.

Total Individuals Average in July : 1,101.4 Individuals.

Lowest Temperature on July Census : 55 degrees F on 07/11/2015.

Highest Temperature on July Census : 99 degrees F on 07/06/2012.

Longest Time Afield on July Census : 10 Hours & 30 Minutes on 07/06/18 & 07/01/22.

Shortest Time Afield on July Census : 6 Hours & 50 Minutes on 07/10/2010.

**LAST JULY'S FIELD REPORT**

<b>07/03/21</b>	<b>TOTAL SPECIES:</b>	76	<b>START / END TIME:</b>	6:10am - 3:40pm		
	<b>TOTAL BIRDS:</b>	816	<b>TIME AFIELD:</b>	9:30	<b>FT. MI.:</b>	13.51
<b>ROUTE:</b>	Red Lock Trailhead south to Merriman Valley, with a stop at Trail Mix In Peninsula.					
<b>OBSERVERS:</b>	John Henry and Douglas W. Vogus			<b>TEMP.:</b>	57F ~ 77F	
<b>CONDITIONS:</b>	Cool and foggy early, fog burning off to mostly sunny with light southerly breezes.					
<b>TRAIL CONDITIONS:</b>	Good.					
<b>RIVER CONDITIONS:</b>	Normal but muddy from rains earlier in the week.					

**THIRTEEN YEARS AGO on the TOWPATH TRAIL**

On July 10, 2010, the first year of the Cuyahoga Valley Towpath Trail Census, we set a high count for one of Ohio's most brilliant summer residents - the aptly named Scarlet Tanager. Most beginning birders never forget their first sighting of this species and look forward to their annual return each spring. More often heard than seen during the hot summer months due to their tendency of staying high up in the tree canopy, nothing beats the rare occasion when they venture down to eye level! Let the "oohs" and "aahhs" commence!

## JULY 2022's BIRD SPECIES PROFILE

### SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*)

**DESCRIPTION:** *The breeding male Scarlet Tanager is one of the easier North American birds to identify. The Scarlet Tanager sings on the breeding grounds and feeds high in the canopy. It moves sluggishly and can be difficult to spot. Sexually dimorphic. Both sexes have whitish wing lining. **BREEDING MALE:** Unmistakable, brilliant red all over, with black wings and tail. The bill, somewhat short and stubby, is thick at the base. **BREEDING FEMALE:** Females are entirely yellow-green, with yellower throat and sides, dark wings and tail, a thin eye ring, and wing coverts with greenish edging. Fall male resembles female, but with darker wings and tail.*

**LENGTH:** 6 & 1/2" to 7 & 1/2" **WING:** 11" to 12" **WEIGHT:** 21.5 to 42.5 grams

**VOICE:** *Upon arrival, male takes up territory in tall tree of woods; as defense of territory against other males, sings frequently from treetops a short, buzzy caroling song; sounds like phrase "querit, queer, query, querit, queer," even rhythm with hoarse burr in voice, robinlike in form; along with call note, "CHIP-churr" or "CHICK-burr," warns rivals; when female arrives she is attracted to singing male; male courts her by hopping about on low perches in woods near ground, spreading wings, and displaying scarlet back to female overhead - when his jet-black wings are folded normally, they almost obscure his scarlet back.*

**HABITS:** *Eats insects high in the treetops, but occasionally in shrubs and even on the ground. Eats aphids, nut weevils, wood borers, leaf beetles, cicadas, scale insects, dragonflies, termites, ants, caterpillars of gypsy moth, parasitic wasps, bees, etc. Also slugs, snails, worms, spiders, millipedes, as well as mulberries, huckleberries, and other fruit. Occasionally suet at feeders.*

**HABITAT:** *Summers in dense deciduous woods of oak, tulip tree, hickory, ash, etc., sometimes mixed with hemlock and pine, also in larger wooded parks. Can be found in these typical woods as well as woodland edges, clear-cuts, smaller woods and wooded yards during fall migration.*

**NESTING:** **NEST:** *Usually built by female in 1 to 2 days or up to 7 days, shallow, saucer-shaped, usually well out on a limb of large oak, ash, beech, tamarack, hemlock, maple, etc. Loosely built of twigs, rootlets, coarse grass, weed stems, lined with finer grasses or pine needles; 4- to 75-feet above ground. While gathering, or flying about with nest materials, female sometimes sings short, hurried songs. **EGGS:** May to August, 3 to 5 eggs, usually 4, pale blue or pale green, minutely speckled or boldly spotted with with browns. **INCUBATION:** By female, 13 to 14 days; young leave nest about 9 to 11 days after hatching, sometimes as long as 15 days.*

**RANGE:** **BREEDING:** *Arrives in Ohio late April to mid May. **MIGRATION:** Trans-Gulf migrant. **WINTER:** Mainly in Amazonia and the foothills of the Andes in South America. Breeds from northern Georgia, northern Alabama, northeastern Mississippi to Arkansas to western Oklahoma north to southern Canada, east to Newfoundland and south to the western Carolinas.*

**STATUS:** *Commonly nests in deciduous forests in the eastern half of North America. Sensitive to forest fragmentation and parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds.*

**Abundance Codes on the graphs below indicate the best time of year to find the Scarlet Tanager in Northeast Ohio.**

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
		*	rrr	uCCCCCCC	CCCCCC
Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
CCCCCC	CCCCCC	CCCCuuu	uuurrooo		

- CCCCCC** = Common to Abundant. Frequently encountered in this region during this time of year.
- uuuuuuuu** = Uncommon. Occurs regularly during this time of year but not frequently detected.
- rrrrrrrrrr** = Rare. These birds can occur more or less annually but are easily missed in their scant presence in the region.
- ooooooo** = Occasional. Limited history in this region and are not to be expected.
- \*\*\*\*\*** = Accidental. Few records in the past 60 years. Not expected in this region during this time of year.
- |||||** = Fluctuating Abundance. May occur some years yet absent other years. Irruptive or overwintering birds.

**History of the Scarlet Tanager on the Cuyahoga Valley Towpath Trail Census 2010 ~ present.**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
JAN.								
FEB.								
MAR.								
APR.								
MAY	9	1	7	10	5	9	2	3
JUN.	7	5	6	3	4	5	3	2
JUL.	<b>11*</b>	8	6	6	4	7	4	6
AUG.	3	2		2		2	3	1
SEP.	2	3	6		2		3	1
OCT.		4			1		1	
NOV.								
DEC.								

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
JAN.					
FEB.					
MAR.					
APR.					
MAY		9		2	2
JUN.	9	5	7	3	2
JUL.	4	5	6	4	5
AUG.	3	1			
SEP.	3	3			
OCT.					
NOV.					
DEC.					

**DID YOU KNOW?:**

There are more than 254 species of tanagers in 65 genera worldwide? They are found only in the Western Hemisphere, with the greatest variety in the tropical forests. There are only 6 species in 2 genera found in North America!

- \*** = HIGHEST COUNT TOTAL ON CENSUS.
- BOLD #** = HIGHEST COUNT FOR THAT YEAR.



*One of the most anticipated spring migrants each May, the stunning male Scarlet Tanager is quite a sight.*

*(photo courtesy of: Caitlin Ambrose - Lake Metroparks)*

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### **JULY'S DID YOU KNOW?**

**DID YOU KNOW?:** *In my youth in the 1970's I would eagerly await the next issue of the "National Wildlife Federation" magazine as much for the articles on nature and animal species as for the artwork of artists like Roger Tory Peterson, Ned Smith and Chuck Ripper? In keeping with this year's theme of wildlife artists and illustrators, let us now explore the extensive work of Chuck Ripper.*

**DID YOU KNOW?:** *Painter Charles Lewis "Chuck" Ripper (October 29, 1929 - July 06, 2019) of Huntington, West Virginia, was one of the country's best-known wildlife artists? His detailed paintings have appeared on nearly 100 magazine covers and 80 U.S. postage stamps, as well as in books and on greeting cards, jigsaw puzzles, playing cards, and even bank checks.*

**DID YOU KNOW?:** *Ripper was born in Pittsburgh. His father was a blacksmith by trade but also an amateur landscape painter who spent hours in the woods, with his young son tagging along. His mother was an elementary art teacher. Both parents encouraged his interest in nature and art. While Ripper was a student at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, he had his first bird painting published in "Nature" magazine. An author saw it and, not knowing Ripper was only 19 years old, invited him to illustrate his forthcoming book. The young artist completed the necessary 61 drawings and delivered them shortly before his 20th. birthday.*

**DID YOU KNOW?:**

Ripper was drafted during the Korean War, and he spent his stint as a draftsman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1953, Ripper moved to Huntington to work as art director for the now-defunct Standard Printing & Publishing Co. At night and on weekends, he continued to draw and paint wildlife. In 1964, he quit his job to become a full-time freelance artist. He created 1,492 illustrations for the "Field Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers", part of the Peterson's Field Guide series. He also illustrated books for the National Audubon Society and National Geographic Society. He designed more than 550 conservation stamps for The National Wildlife Federation.

**DID YOU KNOW?:**

Ripper's works have hung at the Norman Rockwell Museum of Illustration in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the Explorers' Hall at the National Geographic Society, and the Denver Museum of Art. In West Virginia, his work has been shown at the Culture Center and the Huntington Museum of Art. A trail at Huntington's Harris Riverfront Park is named for him and features his illustrations.

**DID YOU KNOW?:**

His daughters, Janet Ripper Chambers, and Elizabeth Ripper Kelley, are also painters? Their artwork has appeared with their father's in the Department of Natural Resources' annual wildlife calendar. Ripper died at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington. He was 89 years old.

*Chuck Ripper's artwork always hit home for me as a young boy in the issues of "National Wildlife Federation" that my Father's younger brother, my Uncle Ed, made sure I had a multi-year subscription to. At right is one of the U.S. postage stamps Ripper created, this one featuring the beautiful male Scarlet Tanager.*

*(painting by: Chuck Ripper)*



See You on the Trail! ~ Doug



Chuck Ripper at the Harris Riverfront Park trail named after him with one of his "wayside works" along the trail.

(photo by: Rick Lee)

**LITERATURE CITED**

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