

Scarlet Tanager



Photo: Doug Hitchcox

IDENTIFICATION AND SONG Slim, bright red with jet black wings and tail. Song a hurried, burry, repetitive warble, similar to a robin, often without pauses between up and down phrases. Call a distinctive *chick-burr*. Found statewide.

NEST Flimsy shallow cup usually placed among a cluster of leaves on a nearly horizontal branch in the canopy, well away from the trunk. Prefers hardwood trees, particularly oak.

FOOD Mostly insectivorous. Eats a wide variety of adult flying and non-flying insects, insect larvae, and spiders.

TERRITORY SIZE Highly variable, 1–12 acres with foraging areas much larger than mating and nesting areas.

FOREST CONDITION Prefers interior hardwood forests with >80% canopy cover, especially those with significant oak component. Sensitive to size of forest patch; at least 40 acres contiguous forest needed for successful breeding.

FOREST HABITAT ASSOCIATION Prefers *Northern Hardwood* and *Oak Pine*, but will use Northern Mixedwood forest.

HABITAT AGE CLASS Prefers *older* forest (dominant trees 70-100 years old and 10-16" diameter), but will use *intermediate* forest (dominant trees 20-70 years old and 5-10" diameter).

HABITAT FEATURES



Generalized graphic depicting forest type, age, layer, and any special features where the bird and nest are typically found.

← **BIRD** Layer where bird typically seen and/or where male typically sings

← **NEST** Typical nest type and height

LAYERS Light gray lines divide overstory (>30'), midstory (6–30'), and understory (<6'), and are not to scale

MANAGEMENT NOTES Maintain or create well-stocked, uneven-aged sawtimber stands with >80% cover, especially those with a significant oak component and those embedded within larger blocks of mature forest (>250 acres).