

# 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).