



The Showy Colors of the male Scarlet Tanager are its summer plumage. There is no other eastern bird like it. In the fall it changes to an olive green. The head turns yellow and the underparts a dull orange yellow. The female Scarlet Tanager always looks like the male in its dull fall plumage.

The Scarlet Tanager comes to us from South America: Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru. It spends the summer nesting in the eastern woodlands and flies back in the fall. Tanagers feed in treetops on beetles, moths, and caterpillars. They also eat berries and wild fruit.

The nest is shaped like a saucer. It is made of fine twigs and weeds, and is lined with vine tendrils and stems. The female lays three to four greenish or bluish eggs. These are speckled with brown at the larger end.