

OBSERVATION

NATURAL HISTORY FIELD OBSERVATION

Kirtland's Warbler

Specific Location

Several hundred yards N of office on backpacking trail

Date (Month, Day, Year)

10/27/78

Time (a.m., p.m.)

7:55 AM

Weather

WARM, SUNNY, no wind

Description, Behavior, Number, Sketch, Map, Etc. (Use reverse if necessary.)

bird appeared to be in spring plumage as the back looked blue gray rather than brown. Had white eye ring broken in front & behind. Underparts all bright yellow with distinct black striping on the sides. Did not notice if wing bars or striping on back were present. Waged its tail like a palm warbler. Bird

BE ACCURATE - DO NOT GUESS

Park: Jonathan McKinnon

Observed by: Lorne K. Mulo

seen about 15' from path emerging from oak scrub thickets (2-3' high). Was with a group of palm warblers moving through thickets in no apparent direction. Had several birds out here looking for it but as yet no one else has seen it. Howard Langridge said that if it were a migrant to the Bahamas it was late by a couple of weeks. However, he suggested that it may be overwintering here in this low scrub habitat. Warblers in this area are very hard to flush out, preferring to hop around from one shrub to another. Will cover this more often to see if I can get any more sightings.



State of Florida

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DR. ELTON J. GISSENDANNER Executive Director CROWN BUILDING / 202 BLOUNT STREET / TALLAHASSEE 32301

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DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS
District VII
Post Office Box 8
Hobe Sound, Florida 33455

February 19, 1980

RECEIVED
FEB 22 1980
WILDLIFE DIVISION

ATTACHMENT "J"

Mr. Victor S. Jansan, Supervisor
Professional Services & Nongame
Wildlife Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Box 30028
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Jansan:

Your letter of January 25 concerning our sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler, has been forwarded to me from our Tallahassee office for a reply.

For your information, I have attached a Natural History Field Observation card, recording the sighting, however, we were never able to confirm it.

Also, I believe another unconfirmed sighting was made farther south from here, by Dr. Robbins (University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, 10 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida 33149). You may want to consider contacting him, as it was not reported in any publication.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Richard E. Roberts

Lt. Richard E. Roberts
District Naturalist
Division of Recreation & Parks
Department of Natural Resources

RER/mm
Attachment
cc: Major Jim Stevenson



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Birchrunville, Pa., 19421
August 7, 1979

Harold F. Mayfield
35 River Road
Birchrunville, Ohio, 43106

Dear Mr. Mayfield,

In reply to your letter of August 1st, let me first answer the questions you posed, regarding my sighting of the Kirtland's Warbler on Deepwater Cay in the Bahamas on Feb. 6, 1979.

The bird was not high in the trees nor in low vegetation, but on the grass in front of our cottage. We had cut agave blossoms on Grand Bahama Island and taken them over to Deepwater Cay with us because Mrs. Edmund K. Dawes, whom we were visiting, said no agave were blooming near the club (if at all on this small island) and birds were very much attracted to the blossoms, feeding on the nectar or perhaps some insects which are also attracted to the flowers. This we found to be very true because bananaquits, woodstars and palm warblers (very plentiful) were always at the blossoms. I did not see the Kirtland's at the agave blossoms, which we had put in a jar filled with water and set just outside our porch where we could watch the birds. The Kirtland's was near the jar and I saw it for a minute or so on the ground. Long enough, at any rate, to notice the grayish back, yellow breast and rather heavy black streaking on the sides of the body. I had Bond's "Birds of the West Indies" and Chandler Robbins "Birds of North America" to which I referred.

There was sparse vegetation about 50 ft. away, mostly low growing beach plum along an embankment going down to the beach. There were a few Casuarina trees in back of the cottage around the club and some other trees, perhaps 15-20 ft. tall scattered here and there. Deepwater Cay lies at the eastern end of Grand Bahama Is., opposite McLeans Town and is separated from it by an inlet about a mile at the narrowest part of the inlet, which is where the club is situated. On the inlet side of both the Cay and Grand Bahama Is. there are dense mangrove thickets and heavy underbrush.

I saw the bird only that one time for about a minute and I'm sorry to say my husband did not see it. I did look at it with my binoculars from a distance of 20 ft. and watched it while it moved around on the ground and then flew off. I did not see where it landed.

We spent one week on Deepwater Cay this time but in 1974 we were there for 2 weeks and did not see the bird.