

1. Date of Sighting: 1981 Sept. 9 about 0900, seen clearly for about one min
2. Location: Morton (about 25 mi. NE of Kingston, Ontario)
3. Habitat: White Pine stand near road with edge of deciduous bushes and saplings.
4. Weather: Broken cloud, sun behind observer.
5. Optical aids: 8 x 40 Binocs in excellent condition and bird viewer at very close range at about 10 paces, allowed close approach.
6. Field Marks:
 - a. General

Chickadee-sized bird feeding in pines, dark above with wing bars and bright yellow beneath. The unhooked small dark bill marked bird as a warbler. It wagged tail continuously much like Phoebe.
 - b. Detail
 - (i) Size of black-capped Chickadee feeding in same trees but warbler, chunkier.
 - (ii) Underparts - bright unstreaked yellow throat, breast and belly becoming white near vent and under tail coverts. Flanks, sides up to shoulder showed light black streaking.
 - (iii) Head and nape - gray.
 - (iv) Face - dark with distinctive white eye ring that appeared interrupted or broken by black extending from bill to eye. No yellow was present on face and black in front of eye to bill fairly extensive, some black in ear region.
 - (v) Upper-parts - white wing bars (2) contrasting with dark wings. Do not recall detail of the back since book consulted and upon relooking at bird, it flew to an inaccessible area of wood.
 - (vi) Tail wagging - continuous; up and down motion.
 - c. Behaviour

- gathering insects/food from pine needles and branches, but nothing distinctive noted about its method of feeding. No calls or song was heard.
7. Species - Kirtland's Warbler (1) male (black on face).

8. Similar confusing species eliminated by description.

There are 3 tail-wagging warblers of North America, viz. Kirtland's, Prairie and Palm.

i) Prairie - ruled out because it shows yellow in face in adult plumage. The young Prairie shows a white throat.

ii) Palm - ruled out because it also shows yellow in face, red/wine/brown cap and some breast streaking. Its vent and under tail coverts are yellow.

9. Observers: Marg Hendrick and Tim Hendrick.

10. Previous experience with species: One sighting with Dr. Paul Aird within last few years on Kirtland's survey in Quebec.

11. Comments: (a) Missed seeing detail on the back as bird fed overhead, which is only field mark missing. Back was dark however.

(b) Above information given to Ron Weir by telephone on Sept. 9 for Rare Birds Committee.

Ron Weir
1981 Sept. 10