

746-01-1997

May 14, 1997

Ed Kwater
222 Franklin Street
Evans City, PA 16033

Dear Ed,

Please submit this report to P.O.R.C. concerning my sighting of a male Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* at Presque Isle on May 14, 1997.

DESCRIPTION

A relatively large warbler with a very dark head, neck, back, rump and tail. The throat, sides and belly were all yellow. It was streaked at the sides with heavy black markings. It's lores had a very obvious black tone to them. It had a habit of flicking it's tail. It had no visible wing bars.

SONG

A very loud, raspy or rough chip of approximately 5 to 7 notes with some variation in tone on the last two or three notes.

LOCATION

Presque Isle State Park, Erie county, Pennsylvania.
Gull point trail, about 100 yards past large pond on left, towards the split rail fence.

The bird was perched on a small cottonwood tree to our left only 20 feet away. He sang several times. He dropped to the ground for a few moments then flew across the path to our right into some fallen small trees about 30 to 40 feet away. After viewing him with my binoculars for 15 seconds, I set up my Kowa scope with 20x lens and observed it again for another 15 to 20 seconds. It sang again several more times. It then disappeared low to the ground.

binoculars 8x42 swifts

Time: about 9:30 am
air temperature: 43 degrees. Partly cloudy with slight breeze.

Prior experiences with kirtland's warbler:

None . I have never seen a kirtland's warbler. However, I am quite familiar with the field marks and songs of similar species such as magnolia, yellow-rumped and canada warbler. This bird was different.

Other Observer: Nathan Hall

Please let me know if you accept my sighting.

Bob Machesney
105 Lindley Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
e:mail remach@aol.com
412-366-7869



746-01-1997

Kirtland's Warbler Sighting

Mark Williams (the only observer present)

412-586-5890 h

412-776-8946 w

mark.williams@msanet.com

seen 8:15 AM Thursday, 15 May 1997, searched for at noon, and again at 5:00 PM but was not found
Property of Mine Safety Appliances in Cranberry Township, PA (my employer), about 375 acres of
various habitats including woodland, wetland, grassland, and lawn, with two shallow ponds.

cool, with periods of sun, and overcast with occasional sprinkles, alternating about every 15 to 30
minutes. At the time of the sighting it was overcast but not raining.

The bird was seen in a triangular shaped hilltop clearing of about ¼ acre bounded on one side by a low
scrubby thicket of trees (about 15 feet tall), on one side by mixed deciduous and conifer woodland with
moderately thick under growth, and on the other side by a fairly mature hardwood stand with a very open
understory.

The bird popped up from at or near ground level into a bush about 4 feet high at a distance from me of
about 40 feet. It flitted about this bush for perhaps 15 seconds providing very good unobscured views,
then flitted away toward another low bush about 25 feet further away at the edge of the mature hardwood
stand. I looked away to consult my field guide, and did not see the bird again.

Field marks observed

blue grey upper parts except for the mantle which was grey with a greenish cast.

black streaks on the back/mantle

bright yellow throat, breast, and belly

black streaks on flanks

white under tail coverts

white eye crescents

one extremely thin white line of a wing bar

Field marks not observed

did not call

I was not tuned to look for tail pumping, so I do not know if this was present

I did not know to look for a black area around the base of the bill, so I do not know if this was present

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)

Date of Sighting: 14 May 1997 to 15 May 1997

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Bob Machesney: Mark Williams

Date of Submission: 1997

Submitted by: Bob Machesney: Mark Williams

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
K. Parkes			X					
R. Ickes								X
P. Hess			X					
J. McWilliams			X					
T. Floyd			X					
TOTALS			6					1
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

9-19-99