

746-01-2001

sighting M. Buchhalter

7/24/01

**Subject: Kirtland's Warbler update Clarion County**

**Date: Sat, 12 May 2001 13:15:33 -0400**

**From: John and Lisa Fedak <jlfedak@PENN.COM>**

**To: PABIRDS@LIST.AUDUBON.ORG**

While birding Piney Tract this morning, I had a Kirtland's Warbler at approximately 7am. The bird was seen and heard (heard first) in the same pine tree plantation that the Clay-colored Sparrows have been breeding in. In fact, I was there to see if the sparrows were back yet. I heard a song that I know I should have known, but couldn't place when I found the singer about 50 feet away at the top of one of the pines (12 - 15ft high) The bird sung again when in view and I could've slapped my head for not remembering the song sooner.

The bird had a bluish-gray back, darker face with a broken eye-ring with white being on the top and bottom of the eye, the back became more grayish olive (at least less bluish) toward the sides and had darker streaking, the sides were yellow speckled with black streaks and the throat remained yellow. The breast and the belly also were unstreaked or spotted and bright yellow. The undertail was white and the bird pumped its tail 4 or 5 times. Although there was a tiny white line on the wings, it was too broken to call it a wingbar. I observed this bird for about 2 -3 minutes when a Clay-colored sparrow flew to the tree and the bird spooked off. The sparrow seemed smaller or about the same size but less bulky. I observed the bird with my Leica bins.

I drove to Foxburg, called the bird in, and then went back to try to document it. I searched for a long time and did manage to locate the bird on the far side of the pines just before they thin out at about 10:15 to 10:30 am. Again, the bird pumped it's tail up and down, and again was spooked as a purple finch flew to the tree. The finch was much bigger. This second observation was from about 30 feet away. The second observation was much shorter about 1 minute at the most. The bird was moving among the branches toward the top of the tree (about 8ft high) and I couldn't get a picture before it flew. When it flew it went into the deeper part of the larger pines. The bird was not singing during the second observation. I would think that this bird would at least remain for the rest of the day before moving out tonight - if it moves today!

#### DIRECTIONS

These large reclaimed strip-mine tracts make some of the best grassland birding habitat in the state, regardless of the season. Grassland birds are abundant breeders here. Grassland Sparrows, passerines, and raptors all can be located here during the proper seasons. The area is still accessible on foot - please help us keep it that way. Working from north to south, to get to Piney Tract, take Exit 7 Knox off Interstate 80. Go south 2.9 miles to Elliot Road. This road is dirt and starts where the paved road (Rt 3007) makes a sharp right hand turn. Follow Elliot Road until it crests a hill with grassland visible. As you continue on, Elliot Road will then intersect with another dirt road. Head east for 0.4 miles from Elliot Road until you crest the hill and come to a gate on both sides of the dirt road. The trail that heads south and up the hill goes one way approximately two miles. It is mostly flat and easy walking. Close views of birds can be obtained from hiking this trail. Approximately 0.5 miles up the trail you will pass through some locust and into a small pine plantation. During the 1998 breeding season, two Clay-colored Sparrows were located here and breeding may have occurred. They are here now and have bred since 1998. The Kirtland's Warbler was in this Pine plantation.

John, Lisa, and Danny Fedak  
Clarion County

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

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

Date of Sighting: 12 May 2001 to 12 May 2001

Location: PINEY TRACT

County: CLARION

Observer(s): John Fedak

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: John Fedak

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp					X			
TOTALS			6		1			
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary):

Date: 2/5/03