

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

746-01-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Kirtland's Warbler - Dendroica kirtlandii
Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) ♂

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): adult - alternate plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 5-18-03 TIME 9:30 a.m. ? Not sure of time

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Brush Valley Twp, Indiana Co

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) State Game Lands 273

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Margaret A. Higbee
Address 3119 Creekside Road
City Indiana State PA ZIP 15701-7934
e-mail (optional) bcoriole@twd.net phone (optional) 724-354-3493

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Carol Rube, John Taylor, Tom Lord

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Along SGL road - second growth, steep slope below

DISTANCE TO BIRD ~50'

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) completely overcast, started to rain after the sighting

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED 10x40 Zeiss binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): Large warbler; faint wingbars on gray wings; face gray with white incomplete eye ring; throat, breast, belly yellow; black streaking on flanks; white undertail coverts
When the bird flew the second time, white was visible in outer tail feathers; tail otherwise gray
bill black - did not note leg color
upperparts just appeared gray

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The bird perched in the top of a deciduous tree, flew into a spruce where it again perched for several seconds before flying again, heading across the road behind us. It did not pump its tail nor did we hear it vocalize - not even a "chip"

VOCALIZATIONS
None

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph Video recording Audio recording Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____
If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) It looked like none of the common breeding/migrant species. It was not a Magnolia Warbler because of the pattern of white on the tail when it flew the second time; there was no white tail band - just white in the outer feathers. Also the black streaking was restricted to the flanks. The wingbars were faint not bold as on Magnolia. In addition, the head appeared plain gray except for the eye crescents.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it
Steve Hoffman arrived as we were leaving, returned to the site of our observation, and heard the Kirtland's sing.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I've seen Kirtland's only in Michigan but I am familiar with Magnolia (a breeding bird at Yellow Creek), Canada, Prairie, Pine etc.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not) Yes, I recognized it as a Kirtland's immediately

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation None
After observation Sibley, National Geographic

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 5-20-03

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Margaret A. Hyler

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746-01-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*)
Subspecies (if known) _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 **SEX(ES)** Male(?)

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): Adult in breeding plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 5/18/03 **TIME** ? - Don't carry a watch

LOCATION (city, borough, township) _____

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) State Game Lands Road, south side of Yellow Creek

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name John F. Taylor
Address PO Box 190
City Home State PA ZIP 15747
e-mail (optional) jtaylor@iup.edu phone (optional) (724)397-2040

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Margaret Higbee, Carol Guba, Tom Lord

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) Tall Spruce tree at top of steep wooded slope

DISTANCE TO BIRD 40-60 Feet (estimated)

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Overcast but fairly bright; sun not visible for cloud cover. Sky not ideal background, but colors still discernible, though muted a bit by light sky. Better when viewed against spruce branches.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Leica Trinovid 8x26 binoculars

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): I saw bright (for the conditions) yellow underparts - throat & breast uniformly so, with dark streaks restricted to sides. Upper parts were clearly darker, although my optics & view weren't adequate in that average light to resolve what darker color it was. Despite good looks at wings and tail, I saw no obvious white patches/bars in either. (View & lighting was good enough that I can say they weren't there.) Didn't get a good look at the head. Bay-breasted Warblers were present in the same tree & the bird in question was (at least) as large and robust.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) Bird was Feeding acrobatically near outer edges of spruce branches, appearing and disappearing in foliage. It was chased off by another warbler that flew into the same area of the tree.

VOCALIZATIONS

None that I heard (but my hearing is poor)

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph Video recording Audio recording Drawing

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) The only other warblers with yellow underparts + black streaks on flanks would have displayed white wing + tail pattern (Magnolia) or greener back with less contrast with underparts (Prairie); it was neither of those - Nor any of the other 32 warbler species I'd seen this spring.

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

I'd had a good spring with many productive outings for warblers, in which I "specialize". I'd seen (well) 32 different warbler species to that point, so I was very well practiced at identifying them. This bird would not register on the "pull-down menu" in my head - because it didn't include Kirtland's given the rarity of sighting in migration when Margaret called out excitedly. "Kirtland's - I'm not kidding", while she was still on the bird, it fit what I was seeing - but regrettably that's when it was chased off.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

I visited the species on its breeding grounds in 1997 + had many splendid views. I've seen the similar species countless times in the past 34 years of serious birding.

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) I couldn't claim it as a positive ID only on what I saw, since I didn't see the head (specifically the white, incomplete eye ring); but Higbee + Guba both did with superior optics to mine. So in combination, I'd say yes. (And there's absolutely no question that we were all on the same bird.)

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation _____

After observation National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 6/19/03

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER [Signature]

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Kirtland's Warbler (Dendroica kirtlandii)

Date of Sighting: 18 May 2003 to 18 May 2003

Location: STATE GAME LANDS 273

County : INDIANA

Observer(s): Margaret Higbee, Carol Guba, John Taylor, Tom Lord

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Margaret Higbee, John ~~WITMER~~ TAYLOR

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

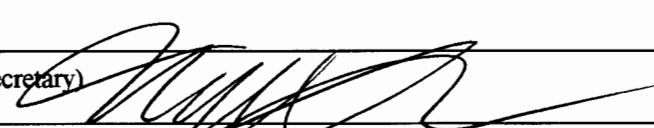
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Witmer R. Witmer			X					
D. Heathcote		X						
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer				X				
R. Leberman		X						
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS		2	4	1				
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 3/7/05