

SOCIETY'S ENDOWMENT & MEMORIAL FUND ENRICHED BY \$30.00

Contributions to the Endowment and Memorial Fund continue to increase, according to Chairman Howard Shephard. Mr. & Mrs. Edward O'Neil sent ASWP \$25.00 in memory of the late Elinor and William M. Simpson of Persimmon Road. We also received a contribution of \$5.00 from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Pittsburgh Chapter, forwarded to us by Mrs. Leon Sydney Miller, Conservation Chairman. These gifts are gratefully appreciated and will be used for educational and conservation programs of the Society.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SIGHTED IN SOMERSET COUNTY

Upon returning home after graduating from West Virginia University on August 26, 1972, I spent much of my spare time birdwatching in Somerset County and neighboring Bedford County, hoping to observe the summer nesting residents I had missed earlier and any birds migrating south. September 26 was warm, clear and quiet when I left my home in Wellersburg. I walked approximately 1½ miles to a small hill above the house. It was around 7:30 a.m. when I arrived, and bird activity was poor. I was walking along an old logging road when I heard some warblers high atop some chestnut oaks along the road. However, the birds were not moving and I could not pick them out in the thick foliage.

I returned about an hour later to see if the group's activity had picked up enough to identify any of the birds. Fortunately, I noticed they were feeding in some sweet birch trees located on some old strip mining mounds. Looking closer, I noticed the warblers were feeding on a large number of small moths flying around the birch trees. Establishing a good lookout point, I noticed there were warblers flying everywhere. I observed a number of Black-throated Greens, Black-throated Blues, Tennessees and immature Magnolias.

Then a warbler, somewhat larger than the others, flew into a tree only a few feet from my lookout point. It resembled an immature Magnolia -- only much larger -- had a prominent eye ring and black streaks on a gray back, wagged its tail and was very tame. Suddenly I realized I was observing an adult male Kirtland's Warbler!! I almost lost my mind but continued to observe the bird for over an hour, after which it flew out of view. I returned home around 8:30 a.m. and reported my sighting to a number of persons in the area and in the Wilson Ornithological Society, of which I am a member.

Some friends and I returned that afternoon with cameras but, although we observed the other warblers in the group, we never did observe the Kirtland's. I returned the next two days but never saw the Kirtland's again. On the third day -- September 29 -- the entire group had migrated out of the area.

-- Paul M. McKenzie

(ED. NOTE: Mr. McKenzie is a naturalist at Banner Park, Dickerson, Maryland. His observation of a Kirtland's Warbler marks the second record of the very rare Michigan resident for Southwest Pennsylvania, and the second in as many autumns. Thanks to Dr. Mary H. Clench of Carnegie Museum for the lead on this very "hot" news story!)