

INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORD: SIGHT DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species Kirtland's Warbler (♂) Number 1 Date 17 May 81 Time seen 7:25am to 3:00pm

Location Chesterton, Indiana (at the Brock residence)

Description of bird. Describe all diagnostic characteristics in great detail. Include information about size, shape, plumage, beak and feet. List only those features actually observed in the field. A rather large (Yellow-rumped sized; larger than nearby Cape May) sluggish warbler. UPPER PARTS: crown, nape & face uniform gray (lores same as rest of face); back- brownish gray with conspicuous stripes; rump- brownish gray; faint white wing bars; tail- grayish above, whitish below; spots visible in flight. UNDER PARTS: throat, breast and most of belly pale yellow; lower belly and under tail coverts white; heavy streaking along flanks and breast margin; a faint band of diffuse stripes extended across upper breast suggesting ♂ Canada Warbler. Legs blackish. Bill blackish and rather heavy. Many photographs were taken. A broken eye ring was clearly visible on the gray face. See attached sketch for further details.

Description of voice, if heard: a soft short chip was heard once

Describe behavior: Active tail wagger; usually fed at about eye level

Habitat: Scotch (?) Pine and some deciduous trees along margin of yard.

Carefully explain how similarly appearing species are eliminated by the above observations  
Yellow-rump:- has white throat & breast, plus yellow crown & rump.

Palm- has yellow under tail covert & rump, plus rusty crown

Pine- has unstreaked back, thick white wing bars and no white eye ring

Canada- has unstreaked back, unbroken eye ring, unstreaked flanks & yellow under tail cov

Yellow-throated- has black on side of face & unstreaked back

Cape May ♂- has yellow rump, streaking across breast & yellowish on face & head

Distance as close as 10 feet Optical Equipment 10X40 binoculars

Light conditions; relation between sun, observer & bird: various conditions throughout the day

Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

One previous Kirtland's (in Mich); many of the others

Other observers: Pete, Kris, Brendan, Josh & Nila Grube; Scott Jackson, Dick Knutson;

Ted Cable, Ed Hopkins, Fred Kase, Barb Covey; Helen Dancey & Mike Chaneshk

Did the others agree with your identification? YES

Books, illustrations and advice consulted. How did these influence this description?

Birding (1977) 9:263- indicated that the absence of black lores proved the bird was a female.

How long after the observation did you first write this description? 2 minutes (typed lat

Name Kenneth J. Brock Address 1265 Red Bud

Signature Kenneth J. Brock Chesterton, IN 46304

Date 17 May 81

THE MAY 17, 1981 CHESTERTON, IN. KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

At 7:25 am, while taking my morning coffee, I noted a warbler in a deciduous tree some 30 feet outside the kitchen window. My first thought was that the bird was a female Yellow-rumped Warbler, but a look through the binoculars quickly dispelled that idea. Upon stepping outside for a closer look I noted the tail wagging habit and yellow throat & breast, plus all of the additional Kirtland's Warbler marks. Of particular interest was the fact that the bird did not have a bluish back, dark lores or bright yellow underparts. Additionally, the flank streaking extended across the top of the breast forming an indistinct necklace. Later research (Ryel, Birding, 1977, 9:263) revealed that the absence of black lores indicates that the bird was a female, which also explains the duller plumage colors.

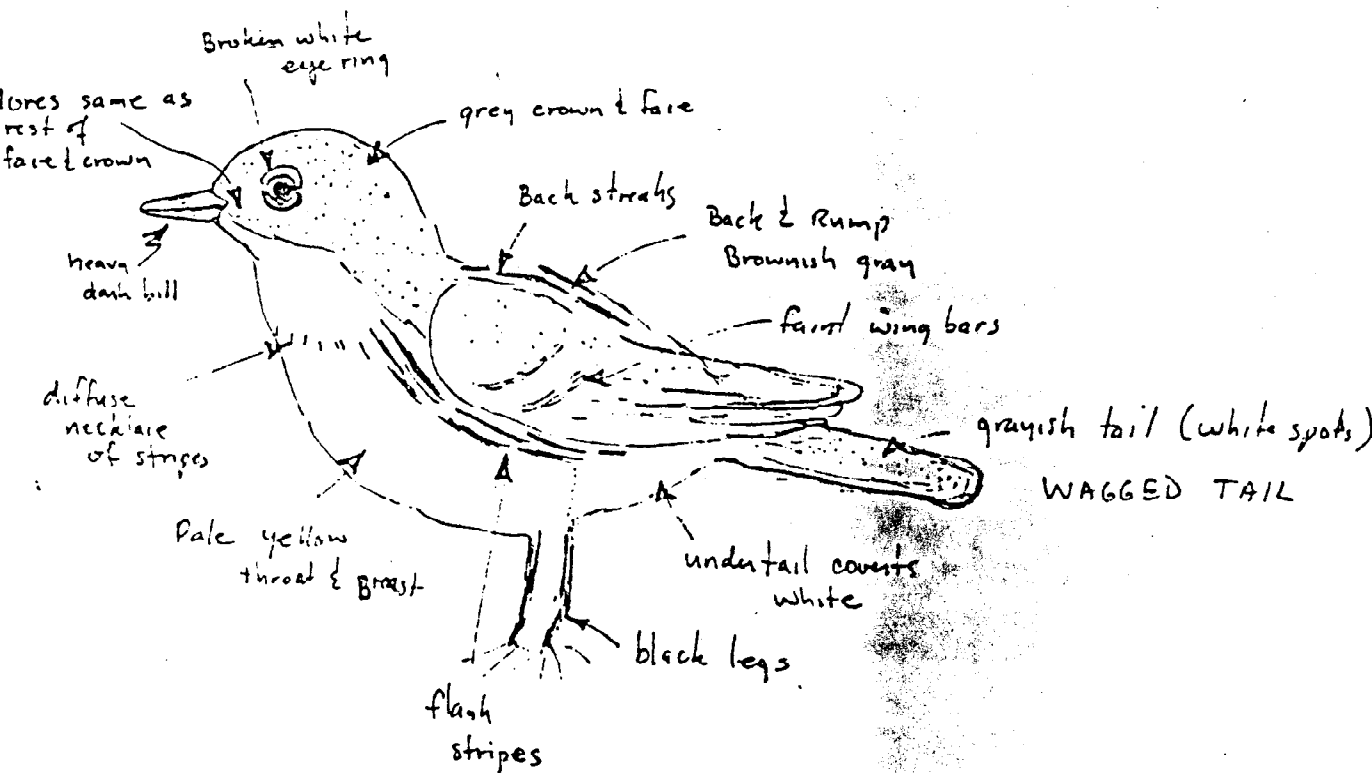
I went into the house for a camera, but was unable to relocate the bird upon returning a few moments later. Several local birders were contacted and an extensive search for the rarity was undertaken. At approximately 9:00am the bird was relocated in the line of Scotch(?) Pine along my drive (on the opposite side of the house from the initial discovery site). The bird remained in these trees, feeding actively, for the next 6 hours. It would occasionally make a brief flight into the deciduous sapling in my front yard. At the latter site the bird was entirely unobscured and quite tame; we approached to within 10 feet, taking more than 100 photographs. At approximately 3:00pm, after some 15 birders had seen and identified the bird, it disappeared.

# KIRTLAND'S WARBLER ♂

CHESTERTON, IN

17 MAY 1981

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K.J.B.