

9-18 June 1988, Jackson County.— Around noon on 9 June, 1988, I discovered the first of several singing male Kirtland's Warblers in Jackson County, while helping with the DNR's survey for this species. I walked into some appropriate-looking habitat (short jack pine at the site of an old burn) and almost immediately heard the bird singing 100 or so feet away. I approached it slowly (eventually coming as close as about 20 feet) and watched for about half an hour as it sang, flew from perch to perch, and occasionally dropped down to feed near the ground. The vigorous, loud, rather low-pitched song was well-defined and "typical" in construction for this species (as heard on the bird song recordings) and was often delivered from scattered tall pine snags. I mentally transcribed the song as having three parts: two or three low, somewhat burry introductory notes on one pitch or rising slightly, followed by two notes on a higher pitch, and ending with two notes on an intermediate pitch. . . . The song was repeated many times, and the bird was still singing at about one o'clock when I left to inform the wildlife manager of my sighting.

The bird was large for a warbler, with blue-gray upperparts, black streaks on the back, darker wings and tail, and indistinct white wing bars. The underparts were bright yellow with a few black spots and thin black streaks on the sides of the breast, and heavier black streaks along the flanks. There was a wide, diffuse blackish area through the lores and a white eye-ring broken in front and back, giving the bird a somewhat masked appearance. The (unbanded) legs and bill were black. The bird was rather slow and deliberate [in] its movements (for a warbler) and frequently wagged its tail. This description applies, in general, to the

other birds as well, with a few differences as noted below. The next day, June 10, I returned early in the morning but could not find the warbler, to my great disappointment. After searching the area for a while I discovered another bird (or possibly the same one) about a mile west. This bird, which I will call #2, looked to my human eyes similar or identical to the first bird and sounded very much like it also. This bird proved to be the most reliable of all and was present on territory through June 18, when it was banded. . . . I watched this bird on several days from many distances (closest about 6 feet) and got at least one photograph.

On June 15, bird #1 was not there, bird #2 was present at his usual spot, and a third bird turned up about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile to the northwest. I did not get as close a look at this bird, but its song was quite different from that of birds #1 and #2. It was recognizable as a Kirtland's Warbler song by its pattern and vocal quality, but it was more run together (the notes were less distinctly separated) and there didn't seem to be as much variation in pitch. According to Bent, Kirtland's Warblers rarely change their songs after the beginning of the season, so individuals can be readily identified by song style.

On June 16, bird #2 was still on territory, but there were no birds where #1 and #3 had been. Instead, bird #2 had a territorial dispute with an apparently different bird at the presumed edge of #2's area. The warblers would alternate chasing each other around with sitting near each other (often within feet) and singing (often simultaneously). The new bird's song was similar to #2's but a little faster, and unlike #3's. The two birds came within 12 feet of me at times and I could see that neither was banded. Bird

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 Passenger Pigeon 51: 121-125.

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On June 15, bird #1 was not there, bird #2 was present at his usual spot, and a third bird turned up about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the northwest. I did not get as close a look at this bird, but its song was quite different from that of birds #1 and #2. It was recognizable as a Kirtland's Warbler song by its pattern and vocal quality, but it was more run together (the notes were less distinctly separated) and there didn't seem to be as much variation in pitch. According to Bent, Kirtland's Warblers rarely change their songs after the beginning of the season, so individuals can be readily identified by song style.

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#4 was paler yellow below than #2 and had thin dark streaks across the front of the breast (indicating a first year bird). Eventually bird #2 chased #4 north about 1/4 mile and returned to the center of his territory.

On the morning of June 17, bird #2 was on territory, a bird that looked and sounded like bird #4 was near where #4 had been chased to the previous day, and another bird that looked and sounded much like bird #1 was back where #1 had been originally. The next day, only #2 could be found. He was banded on that day, and no birds were found thereafter. So, I can say with certainty that at least three, probably four, and maybe even five Kirtland's Warblers were present in this area. There was absolutely no evidence of breeding or even of the presence of females. The peripatetic nature of most of these males underscored that fact.—*Janine Polk, 1407 Frederic, Eau Claire, WI 54701.*

BLUE GROSBEEK (*Guiraca caerulea*)

2 June 1987, Iowa County.—I heard an unusual song that I couldn't place. Not an Orchard Oriole, not a Purple Finch. It was a "short, mellow, trilly warble." Phrases in quotation marks come from notes made immediately after the sighting. A bird flew to a perch about 7 feet high at a distance of perhaps 75 feet or so. I observed it under overcast but bright skies for 10 to 15 seconds. The

view was primarily a side view. It was turned slightly away, but the head was in profile. The upperparts were plain "brown with the richest color on the head." The tail and primaries were blackish. I immediately noticed a "prominent light chestnut upper wing-bar. The lower wing bar was not nearly as conspicuous." I then carefully examined the bill and found it to be a large, pale gray, grosbeak type of bill, not the smaller proportioned Bunting type. At the time I suspected this was a Blue Grosbeak so took my time examining the bill. As I watched, the bird sang its short, pretty warble again. Quite different from Indigo Bunting in both voice and pattern.

Then it flew into denser vegetation. I glimpsed it a few more times but at a greater distance in poorer light. It jerked its tail a few times, but it may have been annoyed! I've seen Indigo Buntings do that too. It sang again but only faintly. Altogether less than 5 minutes. I then wrote down my observations and then found the bird in National Geographic Field Guide. It looked like fall male Blue Grosbeak. It was not pale like the rendering of the female. However, Peterson's rendering of the female is dark enough to fit this bird. I had a tape player with me, and I listened to the Blue Grosbeak recording of the new Peterson edition and also the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The song I heard was of the same type.—*Karl Legler, 429 Franklin Street, Sauk City, WI 53583.*