

Kirtland's Warbler in Mexico

On the morning of Nov. 11, 1974, I was birding about 20 miles south of Veracruz along the little road that leads to the Mexican Naval Academy at Lazario. I first saw an immature or female warbler with a bright yellow breast that was streaked with black along the sides. I first thought was Prairie Warbler but I realized that there was no yellow above the eye. After thinking, "What the hell is that!", I went back to the car for a book.

By the time I came to the conclusion that it must have been a Kirtland's, some 20 minutes had passed. I eagerly set out to refind the bird, but with no luck. I finally sat down under a tree and up popped a fully adult male Kirtland's not over 20 feet from me! It fed for some 20 minutes in a little tree. At one point it sat for about five minutes on a twig and preened. I had plenty of time to look at the book and back at the bird. I checked every characteristic I could think of and

there was not a single one that seemed to be in any way confusing. I am certain that the bird was a Kirtland's.

On two occasions I have seen this species at Mio, Michigan and I am familiar with the other streaked-breasted warblers (Pine, Prairie, Magnolia, and Canada) with which it might be confused.

The habitat was a clump of thick brush with a few small trees. At this spot on the Gulf there are large sand dunes along the beach. These clumps of brush grow just inland of the dunes. In search of firewood, the local people have cut clearings and trails through the clumps so that there are open tunnels running through the brush. The birds seemed to like the open tunnels for feeding

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