ATTACHMENT "A"

Birchrunville, Pa., 19421
August 7, 1979

r. Harold F. Mayfield
35 River Road
terville, Ohio, 43566

ear Mr. Mayfield,

reply to your letter of August 1st, let me first answer the estions you posed, regarding my sighting of the Kirtland's arbler on Deepwater Cay in the Bahamas on Feb. 6, 1979.

The bird was not high in the trees nor in low vegetation, but on the grass in front of our cottage. We had cut agave blossoms on Grand Bahama Island and taken them over to Deep-water Cay with us because Mrs. Edmund K. Dawes, whom we were visiting, said no agave were blooming near the club (if at all on this small island) and birds were very much attracted to the blossoms, feeding on the nectar or perhaps some insects which are also attracted to the flowers. This we found to be very true because bananaquits, woodsters and palm warblers (very plentiful) were always at the blossoms. I did not see the Kirtland's at the agave blossoms, which we had put in a jar filled with water and set just outside our porch where we could watch the birds. The Kirtland's was near the jar and I saw it for a minute or so on the ground. Long enough, at any rate, to notice the grayish back, yellow breast and rather heavy black streaking on the sides of the body. I had Bond's "Birds of the West Indies" and Chandler Robbins "Birds of North America" to which I referred.

There was sparse vegitation about 50 ft. away, mostly low growing beach plum along an embankment going down to the beach. There were a few Casuarina trees in back of the cottage around the club and some other trees, perhaps 15-20 ft. tall scattered here and there. Deepwater Cay lies at the eastern end of Grand Bahama Is., opposite McLeans Town and is separated from it by an inlet about a mile at the narrowest part of the inlet, which is where the Club is situated. On the inlet side of both the Cay and Grand Bahama Is. there are dense mangrove thickets and heavy underbrush.

I saw the bird only that one time for about a minute and I'm sorry to say my husband did not see it. I did look at it with my binoculars from a distance of 20 ft. and watched it while it moved around on the ground and then flew off. I did not see where it landed.

We spent one week on Deepwater Cay this time but in 1974 we were there for 2 weeks and did not see the bird.

Now I guess you want to know how good a "birder" I am. I have "birded" for 35 years and belong to some ornithological organizations. We have taken ornithological trips to Trinidad, Alaska Iceland, Africa and Arizona. My husband thinks I'm a good enough birder, but not "reliable" because I get " over enthusiastic"! At one time we were bird banders and have helped at Operation Recovery with Hildys Cole and Chandler Robbins when they had the banding station at Ocean City, Md.

We were surprised and pleased to hear from Hank McCall and hope he also will see a Kirtland's at Deepwater Cay sometime. The list I made for the club there (and which he saw) was done just for fun and I'm glad it is of interest to him and to you. I hope I'm not leading anyone astray, but I feel certain, in my own mind, that what I observed was a Kirtland's warbler. Naturally I was thrilled! (By the way, in June of 1958 we saw Kirtland's warblers in the Mio-Grayling area in Michigan. At that time we spent the night in our station wagon right on the nesting ground of the warblers and were awakened by their song, then found and photographed a nest and watched the birds come in to feed their young. What a thrill! Perhaps it's not so bad to be 76 now, since, when we were younger, this was still something one could do!)

Thank you for sending the article on Kirtland's from the Wilson Bulletin. I do not belong to this organization nor to ACU.

If I can be of any further help, please let me know and, by all means, tell me if you ever get to Deepwater Cay and if you, or Mr.McCall, see Kirtland's warbler there or anywhere in the Bahamas.

Sincerely yours,

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Ilse Kind Kuch
(Mrs. Herman F. Kuch,Jr.)

c to Hank McCall