

# Biologists to study rare Bird on Grand Bahama

Freeport, Grand Bahama, February 18 - International and local agencies are teaming up to learn more about the winter habitat of the rare Kirtland's Warbler and other birds of conservation concern on Grand Bahama and New Providence. The research team includes representatives from the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, U.S. Forest Service, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. The team visited New Providence on 13-18 February and Grand Bahama on 19-27 February.

The Kirtland's Warbler is an endangered species due to loss of nesting habitat and nest parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird. The U.S. participants have studied the warbler extensively on its summer breeding grounds in Michigan. Research has led to the formation of a Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Programme and intensive management of nesting sites in the jack pine forests of five Michigan counties. Warbler populations have grown from an all-time low of 201 males in 1971 to over 600 males in 1997. The population is censused each summer by counting males which sing in their territories. The bird winters exclusively...

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## Local Briefs

**P.O.W. meeting**  
The regular monthly meeting for Police Officers Wives and Families Support Group will be held on Monday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Mobile. All wives are invited to attend.

**Swingers Junkanoo Group meeting**  
There will be a meeting for the Swingers Junkanoo Group at the Shack on Sunday, February 22 at 3:00 p.m. All members are to attend and interested persons are also welcome.

**Pride of GB Lodge #7 communication**  
Worshipful Master Sanford Culmer of the Pride of Grand Bahama Lodge #7 P.H.A. request the presence of all master masons, financial and non-financial, to attend its regular communication on Saturday, February 21 at 8:00 p.m. at the Lodge Hall Hepburn Town, Eight Mile Rock. All other lodges are invited, Harmony #25, St. Nicholas #23 and Nebos #21. Take due notice and govern yourself accordingly.

**GB Volleyball Association meeting**  
All team coaches, captains and referees of the previous season and anyone interested in putting in a team for the upcoming season are requested to attend an important meeting on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the YMCA.

**City of Freeport Council meeting**  
The City of Freeport Council will hold its bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council's board room at #16 Pioneer's Professional Plaza, Pioneer's Way. The public is invited to attend.

**FNM officers and members to meet**  
Mr. Michael Edwards National Vice Chairman of the Free National Movement request the presence of all party officers and council members to be present at the Masonic Temple on East Sunrise Highway and East Atlantic Drive on Friday, February 20 at 10:45am for the official viewing of the late Mrs. Whynell Levarity freedom fighter, and funeral service on Saturday, February 21 at Christ The King at 11am.



BIOLOGISTS with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are seen demonstrating bird banding and measuring techniques. (Photo: Rick Oliver)

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