

*Same letter
sent to Ralph Raible Jr.*

April 13, 1951

Dr. Richard Olsen
3325 Franklin Rd.
Route 3
Pontiac, Michigan

Dear Dr. Olsen:

I know of your interest in the Kirtland's warbler, and I hope you might be willing to work with me on a project to find out how many of these warblers there are.

This project is an offshoot of Josselyn Van Tyne's life history study of the Kirtland's warbler, in which I have been assisting for several years.

With such a rare bird, the question, "How many are there?", becomes an important one. Actually, we have no idea today, and we have no certain information as to whether the bird is increasing or decreasing.

I do not know if all the members of a species of songbirds have ever been counted before. With most birds, it would be extremely difficult, but with our warbler the habitat is so clearly marked (jack pines 7 to 20 years old) and the bird is such a loud and persistent singer that a count appears to be a practical possibility for a relatively small group of us working together.

I am now in the process of plotting on maps every section of land in the known range of the bird where (a) forest fires have occurred between 1925 and 1945, or (b) jack pines have been planted by the national and state forest people in the same period.

The next step to be taken is an inspection of all of these sections and a count of singing males on those sections where Kirtlands live. This is where I need your help. If you will be able to visit Kirtland country this June, even if for only a couple of days, please write me. I would like to know what dates you will have available and what general area you would like to inspect (if you have a preference). Then I will assign you some sections where the forestry records would indicate that there might be Kirtlands.

I hope you may be able to do some of this work before June 17. At that time I shall begin two weeks at Mio, hoping to pick up the loose ends of the count.

Do you know of any other competent people who might like to help in this job? I shall welcome any suggestions on this whole project.

If you will help, I shall send you further information before the middle of May.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Mayfield:et
2557 Portsmouth Ave.
Toledo 13, Ohio

