

August 1, 1978

Dear Larry,

At the meeting of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team at Higgins Lake last week we were sorry to hear of your hospitalization. We hope it will prove to be a short bout, and you will be on your feet again in a few days.

We missed you at the meeting, but Mick Guthbert and Mark Bergland were there to fill us in on the summer field work and the state of your manuscript. Paul Aird (and daughter) were there too, giving us the details on the Quebec and Ontario birds.

The Quebec bird was still present as late as July 27 and was reported feeding a young Myrtle Warbler (1). The persistence of these Ontario, Quebec, and Wisconsin birds on territory this summer for such very long periods suggests that stray males probably waste at least one whole summer in the area where they have mistakenly landed. I had hoped that a male not getting a mate in one place might scout around and try one or two more areas before the end of a nesting season, but apparently this is not their habit. Also the return of the Ontario bird a second year suggests that some males return more than one year to an area even though unsuccessful in finding a mate there. This characteristic might make it easier for us to establish new colonies in other regions. We touched on this topic briefly at our meeting, and intend to ask Richard Brewer to our next meeting to tell about his experience of moving eggs into the nests of foster parents (like Chipping Sparrows).

Probably you have also heard that Mary Glench of Pittsburgh was finally successful in finding one female Kirtland's Warbler last winter in the Caicos Islands, which are not under the Bahamas government but are biologically and geologically a part of the Bahamas. ..down at the far end of the chain.

After the AOU meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, in the third week of August, I hope to look at the site of the Wisconsin birds to get some idea of the habitat. Elaine Smith described it as excessively dense and devoid of low ground cover as compared with typical Kirtland habitat. Yet there is some talk of trying that area in some future transplant attempt.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely,