

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nancy Jo Craig, Christin Everly, Gina Green, Lise Hanners, Ronda Mosley-Rovi, Jeffrey Parrish, Roberto Roca, Kevin Skerl, Kathleen Sullivan-Sealey, Tom Woiwode, Lisa Vonder-Haar, John Withey, Christina Wurshy

FROM: Dave Ewert, Dave Mehlman

DATE: March 17, 1998

SUBJECT: Synopsis of Bahamas trip

We had three major objectives for our February 1998 trip to the Bahamas:

1. USA participants to train Bahamians to identify Kirtland's Warblers, Bahamians to train USA participants to identify resident birds of the Bahamas. and all to train volunteers to identify birds in the field so they will participate in future surveys and train others.
2. To identify winter habitats and map locations used by Kirtland's Warblers and resident Bahamian birds of conservation concern.
3. To foster development of partnerships which will benefit conservation initiatives on the Bahamas and in Michigan.

February 13-19, 1998. New Providence. Principal Bahamian participants: Aileen Bainton (Bahamas National Trust) Sandra Buckner (Bahamas National Trust), Eric Carey (Department of Agriculture), Paul Dean (birder extraordinaire), Lynn Gape (Bahamas National Trust), Maurice Isaacs (Department of Agriculture), Carolyn Wardle (Bahamas National Trust). Principal USA participants: Mike DeCapita (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Dave Ewert, Dave Lee (North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences) and Dave Mehlman.

Volunteer training was held Saturday, February 14 in a mosaic of pinelands and coppice. Carolyn Wardle, head of the Bird group of the Bahamas National Trust, had recruited approximately 15 volunteers. We broke into several groups, reviewed identifying characteristics of Kirtland's Warblers and similar species, and then went into the field playing back tapes of songs of Kirtland's Warblers. Following field work, the group convened at The Retreat where presentations were made by Dave Lee, Mike DeCapita and Paul Dean.