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WJR

"POINT OF VIEW"

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Hello, this is George Bushnell, and this is my

point of view.

small

I have great affection for a/bird that has been on

the verge of extinction and now is making a comeback—

the Kirtland Warbler. One reason for my enthusiasm

over this tiny object stems from the fact that it nests

in Michigan and migrates to the island of Abaco in

The Bahamas. The Bushnell family has deep roots in

both places, thus sentiment is a big factor.

Another reason for delight with the Kirtland

Warbler is that not a very great deal is known either

about it or its habits. It does seem to be established,

however, that the bird only nests successfully in burned-

over pine forests, and when there are no forest fires

the creature disappears!! Thus, the intriguing paradox

of ecologists, on the one hand, moving heaven and earth to preserve so-called unspoiled natural resources, efforts replete with dire warnings about destruction of our forests, and, on the other hand, ornithologists and naturalists applauding the disasters of nature in order that there might be burned-over breeding grounds. This is one that fascinates me. For this is a rather impressive power struggle—all over my friend the Kirtland Warbler; and the bird is winning.

As fond as I am of the Kirtland, however, this paradox suggests a much larger question. Is the current fad of ecology throwing out the baby with the bath water? Is an unpolluted environment worth the penalties attached to achieving that end?

Substitute this little warbler for employees of the auto industry and ask if extensive unemployment is worth

