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Cover Illustration: ArcView GIS generated elevation map of San Salvador. Produced by Matt Robinson of the University of New Haven for the Bahamian Field Station

## KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS IN THE BAHAMA ARCHIPELAGO: A COMPILATION OF RECORDS AND REPORTS AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE SPECIES ON ITS WINTERING GROUNDS

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The Bahamas represent the major wintering area for Kirtland's Warblers, *Dendroica kirtlandii*, (Mayfield 1996), and there are only three reports of individual birds wintering outside the Bahama archipelago. Despite high levels of interest resulting from its endangered status, and a rather extensive body of literature, little useful information is currently available for implementing conservation priorities of this warbler on its wintering grounds.

#### INTRODUCTION

In 1995 we decided to examine the available literature in order to assess the season of occurrence. distribution and habitat needs of Kirtland's Warblers during its period of winter residence in the Bahamas. Our findings, combined with field work, have already been presented in part (Lee et al. 1997, Haney et al. 1998). In the course of our study we uncovered 111 accessible reports of 199 individual wintering birds and compiled a bibliography of nearly 200 reports and published references dating from 1865 to the present. As this information is widely scattered and published over a protracted time period, we believe that publishing this complete assemblage of winter records and associated bibliographic references will be useful to Bahamian natural resource managers, to biologists concerned with Kirtland's Warblers and other neotropical migrants, and to others concerned with local environmental issues

All published occurrence records are included; we have made no effort to edit them, or to pass secondhand judgement on their validity. A review of these records and reports shows the species has been reported from 18 islands and island groups in the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos. Some island groups have many more records than others. Haney et al. (1998) have illustrated that these occurrences are not random, but that they indicate a statistically defensible preference for the northernmost, pine-dominated islands, and that regularity of occurrence does not result from island size or island visitation rate by bird students. A summary of all compiled distributional information is provided in Tables 1 and 2. It shows:

- · 111 accessible reports of 199 individual birds from the Bahama archipelago between 1841 and 1998.
- The majority (88%) of these birds winter in the northern portion of the archipelago.
- These warblers occur most frequently (74%) on islands that support Caribbean pine (*Pinus caribaea*) forests.
- · Three published winter reports are from outside this region.
- · Kirtland's Warblers occur in the Bahamas from 17 August to 28 April, with a majority of reports between October and early March.
- · Habitat information is available in 73 of the reports, and Haney et al. (1998) show pine habitats are referred to in 60% of these reports.

Our bibliography includes early publications which address occurrence in the Bahamas, subsequent occurrence reports and summaries, pertinent regional

Table 1: Summary of wintering reports of Kirtland's Warblers through December 1997 arranged by island and date of occurrence. An \* indicates specimen or photograph records.

Abaco			
1*	2nd wk Oct 1841	Baird 1865	
1*	21 March 1891	Cory 1891	Great Abaco
1* m	20 March 1902	Bonhote 1903	Little Abaco
2	9-11 Nov. 1967	Robertson 1968a	nr Marsh Harbor
1*	early 1969	Bond 1969, 1980	Great Abaco Abaco Nat. Park
1 1 m	13 November 1987	Norton 1988 Lee et al 1997 ne Ab	aco Nat. Park
1 111	17 August 1990 25 August 1990	Lee et al 1997  Lee et al 1997	Abaco Nat. Park
1 imm	1-3 December 1995	Lee et al 1997	Abaco Nat. Park
1	15 December 1996	Haney et al 1998	Abaco Na. Park
1	17 December 1996	Haney et al 1998	nrCrossing Rocks
Andros			
1* f	9 January 1879	Cory 1879	Hawk's Nest
1*	1884?	Maynard 1896	Southern Bight
1	16 November 1967	Robertson 1986a	Fresh Creek
1	30 Mar-6 Apr 1968	Robertson 1986b	Fresh Creek
1	1970	Radabaugh 1974	
1-3	1968-1971	Radabaugh 1974	
Bahamas			
1*	1886	Townsend 1927	
Bimini			
1	27 or 28 April 1907	Chapman 1898	Cat Cay
1*	1913	Van Tyne 1951	Cat Cay
1	1915	Van Tyne 1951	Cat Cay
Berry Island	s		
3*	2 and 20 April 1891	Cory 1891	
1	31 March 1984	Dunnell and Dunnell 1985 Great	Stirrup Cay
Cat Island			
1*	20 November 1890	ANSP 48134	
1*	1891	Mayfield 1960	
1*	20 Nov.(1950?)	Bond 1951	Port Howe
Crooked Isla	and		
1	11-22 March 1973	Radabaugh 1974	
Eleuthera			
2*	22 April 1884	Chapman 1898	
5*	13 Nov2 Dec 1891	Mayfield 1960	
3*; 2m, 1f	20-22 April 1897	Chapman 1898	

9 March 1956	Bond 1957	Harbour Island
11 November 1961	Hundley 1967	
30 November 1963	Hundley 1967	
9 November 1975	Anon. 1976b	
20 February 1985	Norton 1989	Governor's
•		•
Dec 1985-28 Mar 1986	Norton 1986a,b	•
14 February 1989	Norton 1989	Governor's
•		
	11 November 1961 30 November 1963 9 November 1975 20 February 1985	11 November 1961       Hundley 1967         30 November 1963       Hundley 1967         9 November 1975       Anon. 1976b         20 February 1985       Norton 1989         Dec 1985-28 Mar 1986       Norton 1986a,b

## **Grand Bahama**

			- 37.79
1	24 November 1955	Lee et al 1997	Lucayan Nat. Pk
1	14 November 1959	Blanchard 1965	West End Airport
3	19 November 1960	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
1	late December 1961	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
2	December 1961	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
1	24 November 1962	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
1	December 1962	Grantz 1963	8km w of Freeport
1	16 November 1963	Blanchard 1965	Pinelands Wildl. Sanct.
5	12 February 1964	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
2	24 March 1964	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
1	27 March 1964	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
2; 1m, 1f	27 April 1964	Hundley 1964	e of Freeport
1	5 August 1964	Blanchard 1965	Pinelands Wildl. Sanct.
3; 2m, 1f	29 August 1964	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
2	13 November 1964	Blanchard 1965	Pinelands Wildl. Sanct.
2; 1m, 1f	27 November 1964	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
1m	9 February 1965	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
1m	15 February 1965	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport .
3	17 February 1965	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
2	16 October 1965	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
2	21 October 1966	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
2	22 October 1966	Hundley 1967	e of Freeport
1	5 August 1967	Bond 1968	e of Freeport
1*	April 1969	Mayfield 1972	
1	28 December 1969	Mayfield 1972	West End
>5	1969-1974	Radabaugh 1974	
1	25-27 November 1995	Lee et al 1997	Lucayan Nat. Pk.
1	9 February 1997	Haney et al in ms	12 mi e of Freeport
1	10 February 1997	Haney et al in ms	nr Owl Hole
1	22 February 1998	this study	nr Church Road
1	23 February 1998	this study	nr Owl Hole
	13 March 1998	this study	Freeport

# Great Inagua

	9 March 1025 at 1040	Von Tema 1061
1	8 March 1935 or 1940	Van Tyne 1951
1 f	29 March 1979	Lee et al 1997
2m	20, 22 March 1985	Lee et al 1997
1f	1 April 1985	Lee et al 1997
1m	2 April 1985	Lee et al 1997

## **New Providence**

4*	10 January 1879	Mayfield 1960	
24*	10 Jan-29 Mar 1885	Maynard 1896	nr Nassau
2*	12 April 1886	Ridgway 1886	Green Cay
4*	21 Mar25 Apr. 1887	Van Tyne 1951	nr Nassau
8*;2m,3f	18-25 Apr 1887	Chapman 1899	
1 m	April 1887	USNM 274850	
2*, 1f	25 Mar2 Apr. 1893	Chapman 1898	Nassau
5*;2m, 1f	4 Mar-6 Apr 1897	Chapman 1898	Nassau
1*	5 May 1897	Chapman 1898	Athol
1*	April 1902	Bonhote 1903	

## Nassau

1* f	5 March 1913	MCZ 63660	Nassau
1*	1915	Van Tyne 1951	
3	26 February 1941	Hundley 1967	
1m	27 March 1957	Challinor 1962	Paradise Is (Hog)
1f	27 August 1967	Wallace 1968	Paradise Is (Hog)
1	20 August 1970	Am Birds 25: 48	nr Airport
1f	30 January 1985	Lee et al 1997	• •
1m	2 February 1985	Lee et al 1997	Paradise Is
1	13 December 1989	Lee et al 1997	CoralHarbor Road
1	13 December 1991	Am Birds 47: 304	Coral Harbor Road
1	28 October 1997	this study	South Westridge

# **Rum Cay**

>1 1891? Cory 1891

# San Salvador (Watling)

4*; 1m, 2f	4-9 April 1886	Ridgway 1891
1*	27 December 1963	1 211

# **Turks and Caicos**

2*	9 January 1891	Cory 1891	
1	10 February 1978	Clench 1978	N. Caicos, Bellfield Land.
1m	6 February 1985	Lee et al 1997	S. Caicos
1m	10 February 1985	Lee et al 1997	S. Caicos
3; 2m, 1f	11 February 1985	Lee et al 1997	
1m	7 March 1985	Lee et al 1997	Grand Turk
1m	27 December 1985	Lee et al 1997	Grand Turk
1	8 December 1997	This study	Middle Caicos
1	16 December 1997	This study	Pine Cay

# Outside Bahama Archipelago

1 m	11 November 1974	Lane 1975	Mexico, Lazario
1f	14-15 March 1985	Faanes and Haney 1989	Dominican Rep.,

# Laguna Saladilla

1 ? Wunderle and Wade 1993 Dominican Rep.

Table 2: Distribution of wintering Kirtland's Warblers from the Bahama archipelago for all records with island locations. Records from a specimen collected at sea, one labeled only as Bahamas, and ones from outside Bahamas (see Table 1) are not included.

Island	No. reports		No. individuals	
Northern island groups				
Bimini	3	(3%)	3	(2%)
Grand Bahama	33	(31%)	57	(29%)
Abaco	11	(10%)	12	(6%)
Berry Islands	2	(2%)	4	(2%)
Andros	6	(6%)	8	(4%)
New Providence	21	(20%)	65	(33%)
Eleuthera	10	(9%)	18	(9%)
Cat	3	(3%)	3	(2%)
Subtotals	89 (83%)		170 (87%	<b>%</b> )
Southern Island groups				
Exuma	0		0	
Long	0		0	
Rum Cay	>1	(1%)	>1	(<1%)
San Salvador	2	(2%)	5	(3%)
Crooked	1	(1%)	1	(<1%)
Acklands	0		0	
Mayaguana	0		0	
Great Inagua	5	(5%)	6	(3%)
Little Inagua	0		0	
Caicos Bank	9	(8%)	12	(6%)
Subtotals	>18	(17%)	>25	(13%)
TOTALS	107		195	

research (including in-depth studies failing to locate wintering Kirtland's Warblers), and papers interpreting biological, zoogeographical and conservation issues. Important studies appearing after Mayfield's 1960 monograph on the species which concern wintering Kirtland's Warblers include: Faanes 1985, Haney et al. 1998, Hundley 1967, Lee et al. 1997, Mayfield 1996, Radabaugh 1974, and Sykes 1989.

Information provided here is current through March 1989

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