

**KIRTLAND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica kirtlandi*) AT  
OBERLIN, OHIO.**

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It has been my rare good fortune to meet face to face three Kirtland's Warblers during the season of migration just past. On May 7 it was seen and heard singing in an orchard of some three acres just outside the limits of Oberlin. The early hour—4:15 A. M.—an overcast sky with fine rain and searching north wind made a satisfactory scrutiny of the bird impossible. Consequently its identity was not fixed. One could not see the markings clearly in the feeble light. May 9th, at 5:00 A. M., in company with a considerable number of students, one was heard singing in the "South Woods" about a mile south of Oberlin. Here, again, circumstances made it impossible to obtain a satisfactory scrutiny of the singer, but the song was carefully studied and written out. On our return from the woods at 6:30, past the orchard mentioned above, the song was heard again and the bird clearly seen and studied for some time. Half an hour later the bird was in my hand for positive identification. It seemed a great pity to sacrifice so sweet a singer for a museum specimen.

One may ask why I speak so confidently of three individuals when but one of them was positively identified. In the first instance it was both seen and heard, and in the second clearly heard, and there is no Warbler song like it. Even the students remarked upon the unusual quality of the song and its striking character. It was given from three to six times in succession at intervals of about fifteen seconds, then with a prolonged pause sometimes lengthening into ten minutes, but often not over two minutes. It is likely, however, that the longer pause was occasioned by the bird flying from one tree to another because of my inquisitiveness. One does not meet so rare a Warbler every day, and so may be excused for a degree of over inquisitiveness. The song was loud and full, given with all the vigor of a Wren or Kinglet; the body being straightened to almost a perpendicular direction, and the beak

pointing straight up. It was no by-talk nor incidental song, but manifestly an earnest and purposeful call song. The song is a double phrased one, the first part slightly longer and a little less rapidly uttered, the second part quickly and more vigorously uttered. I have written it thus: *ter ter ter tee; tswee te chu*. The first three syllables have the *r* trilled slightly and the syllables on the same key, the fourth one about a sixth higher pitched; the first syllable of the second phrase is a third higher than the first three, the second syllable of the second phrase a note above the preceding one and much shorter, while the last syllable is on the same pitch as the first three, sliding a third or more below; it is therefore somewhat prolonged.

- - - - - It is difficult to represent the song by characters  
 - - - - - but the scheme given may prove suggestive to some.

There are two distinct field characters which appear to me most strongly, which I venture to give. First, because first seen usually, the yellow underparts, from the chin to the tail, without any markings on them except along the sides at the edge of the wings; second, the middle of the bluish gray back with distinct black streaks—four in this specimen. This back pattern is so unusual that to me it was the most striking character. The bird was not at all wary or timid, but allowed an approach within ten feet on both mornings, but in rather heavy foliage.

I claim two records for this rare Warbler, with a probable third. But since the bird captured was in the same orchard as the first one seen, and but two days later, the first and the third may be the same individual. Clearly the one heard singing in the woods could not have gone to the orchard while we were returning, more especially since the natural route of the woods bird would have been at right angles to the direction of this orchard.

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### A DAY IN RUBIO CANYON, CALIFORNIA.

The day dawned brightly as California days are wont to. I had dreamed the night before of "takes" and "finds," and