

bands were carefully observed. After a little research with federal agencies, we learned that this was an immature male banded on 15 August 1996 in Ogemaw County in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Interestingly, the winds on the previous five days had been strongly from the northwest, making flying from Michigan to either Wisconsin or Illinois difficult. Perhaps it migrated westward before the weather system occurred.

The Kirtland's Warbler nests in groves of young jack pines (*Pinus banksiana*) that are between 5 and 15 feet tall. The species also requires a specific soil type, the Grayling Sands, which is important because they nest on the ground and their nests would be flooded if rain water did not drain away quickly in a sandy soil. For this reason, nearly 90% of Kirtland's Warbler nests are in the drainage of a simple stream.

The Kirtland's Warbler has been the focus of much attention in the last 25 years because of its rarity and

special habitat needs. Natural forest fires previously created the conditions the species needed for nesting habitat. When European settlers cleared dense northern forests for agriculture and mining, the warbler benefitted temporarily. Unfortunately, with the opening of the forest, Brown-Headed Cowbirds began nest parasitism which imperiled the nesting success of the Kirtland's Warbler. The trapping of the cowbirds and controlled forest burns by land managers in the last remaining nesting zones in Michigan's Lower Peninsula have allowed the species to make a comeback, with over 700 singing males counted in 1996. The bulk of the nests are in an area 100 miles long and 60 miles wide.

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First Painted Bunting Specimen Record for Illinois

On 10 October 1996, as part of our program of monitoring migration through the birds that run into Chicago windows, I checked McCormick Place as Field Museum staff has through the last 19 years. In the pre-dawn light, I picked up a bird that I assumed was a female or young male Indigo Bunting (*Passerine cyanea*). It wasn't until I returned to the museum and saw the greenish back and slight yellow wash to the underparts that I realized the bird was a Painted Bunting (*P. ciris*). The bird is now prepared as a study skin with Field Museum catalogue number 381657; it is an immature male, weighing 15.6 grams, with a high fat level, and testes measuring 1 x .5mm. The specimen is assignable to the subspecies *ciris*, whose normal range is the southeastern U. S. It represents the first specimen record of the species for Illinois. Bohlen (1989) lists Painted Bunting as hypothetical based on four sight records dating from the 1870s through the early 1980s. While all potentially accurate accounts, the documentation for these records was not thorough enough to establish the occurrence of the species in the state. Since the publication of Bohlen's book, Ben Gelman (1994) carefully documented (with an unequivocal photo by Dennis Oehmke) an adult male visiting a feeder in Makanda Township, Jackson County. Gelman also notes the records for adjacent states—four for Minnesota, nine for Wisconsin, five for Michigan, and one for Indiana. Most of these substantiated records are from April and May, with only two from the fall. Spring records

may be explainable by birds overshooting their normal ranges when migrating north. The occurrence of an immature bird this far north of the breeding range in fall is harder to explain. However, in the southwestern U.S., vagrants of this species are predominantly female-plumaged birds recorded in the fall (Phillips et al., 1964). It may be that scarcity of fall records partly reflects the difficulty in separating immature-plumaged birds from Indigo Buntings.

Literature Cited:

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