

**ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS**

**Submitted to Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC)**

**IORC RECORD  
NUMBER:**

This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):

2019-009

X Unusual species; \_\_\_ Unusual date; \_\_\_ Unusual number; \_\_\_ Unusual plumage;  
\_\_\_ Unusual breeding record; \_\_\_ Christmas Bird Count record; \_\_\_ Spring Bird Count  
record; \_\_\_ Breeding Census record; \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. SPECIES:** Kirtland's Warbler

**2. Number of birds:** 1 **Age/sex/plumage:** male

**3. Date(s):** 9 May 2019

**4. Location (include county):** Grant Park (near Lincoln statue), Chicago, Cook County

**5. Observers:** Geoffrey A. Williamson, Jennifer Hoffman, Alex Rossi, Edward Warden

**5b. Documentor: Your name:** Geoffrey Williamson

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Others agreeing with identification:** all those listed above

**Observers NOT agreeing with identification:** none

**6. Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and patterns on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, undertail, wings, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, eye, legs and feet) include only details actually seen in the field:**

Large warbler. Grayish blue head and face with some black streaking in crown, white arcs above and below dark eye, black area between eye and bill; dark bill; grayish blue colored upperparts with streaking on back; weak, white wingbars; yellow chin, throat, breast, and belly, mostly unstreaked but with a couple of flecks of streaking; white at sides of breast and along flanks with moderate black streaking; dark legs.

Seen foraging in small trees. Actively pumping its tail.

This bird was initially found earlier in the day by Carl Giometti.

(over)

**ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS**

**Species:** Kirtland's Warbler **Date seen:** 9 May 2019 **Documentor:** Geoffrey Williamson

**7. Description of behavior:**

Hopping within foliage of small trees (about 8 to 10 feet tall), making short sallies of less than 6 inches from the branch. Repeated up-and-down pumping of the tail. Tail pumping action very noticeable but not as pronounced as that of Palm Warbler (many of which were in the vicinity)

**8. Description of vocalizations:**

None heard for sure.

**9. Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):**

City park.

**10. Viewing conditions:**

**Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):** Zeiss Victory T\* FL LT 7x42 binoculars

**Distance/ how measured?** 15 feet, estimate **Time(s) of observation:** 1:45 pm

**Total time of observation:** 2 minutes

**Weather (including regional or national weather patterns if relevant)/ sky conditions/ relative position of the sun :**

62 degrees F, winds SSW 15 mph, partly cloudy skies. Viewing the bird while facing east with the sun at my back.

**11. Previous experience with this species and similar species:**

I have seen one male and one female/immature Kirtland's previously in Chicago, and several (four to eight) individuals on the breeding grounds in northern Michigan.

**12. Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids (use additional paper, if necessary):**

Face pattern, upperparts color and pattern, underparts color and pattern are unique to the species. Among warblers with entirely or partially grayish blue or blue upperparts, Northern Parula has eye arcs but is much smaller and unstreaked below, Magnolia Warbler is much more boldly streaked below and has greenish back with male having bold black in face, Yellow-rumped Warbler has white chin and throat (Myrtle) and lacks all yellow underparts, and Grace's and Yellow-throated Warblers have different face patterns that include an eyebrow stripe.

**13. Where photos obtained?** Yes **If so, by whom?** Geoff Williamson **Attached?** yes

**14. Books & illustrations consulted, and advice received. How did these influence this description?**

**15. How long after the observation were field notes recorded?** Very brief notes taken at time of observation

**16. How long after observation was this form completed?** Eight hours

**17. Additional remarks:**

**Signed:** Geoffrey A. Williamson **Date:** 9 May 2019

**ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS**



Photo #1 by Geoffrey A. Williamson on 9 May 2019

**ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS**



Photo #2 by Geoffrey A. Williamson on 9 May 2019



**ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS**



Photo #3 by Geoffrey A. Williamson on 9 May 2019

**ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS**



Photo #4 by Geoffrey A. Williamson on 9 May 2019