

February 6, 1988

Mr. Barry D. Brand
343 South Union Street
Sparta, Michigan 49345

Dear Mr. Brand,

As a part of my long-continued study of the Kirtland's Warbler, a rare bird nesting only among young pines in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, I have wondered about Christmas-tree plantations as potential nesting habitat for this bird. We have never found it nesting on a Christmas-tree farm, but we do not understand why the bird may not some day utilize such tracts.

Therefore, I am writing you to get any published figures or even an informed guess about the total acreage planted to Christmas trees in or near the nesting range of the bird, that is, the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Also what is the typical size of a tract planted to Christmas trees in that region?

I am a member of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team assigned by the federal government to aid in the preservation of this rare species.

I am sending a similar letter to the office of the National Christmas Tree Association in Milwaukee.

I will be most grateful for any information you can give me.

Thank you,

Sincerely,