



**Social Studies Grade 6
Scoring Guide for
Released Item 21
Kirtland's Warbler as State Bird
Fall 2007**



DECISION MAKING

Directions: You will be asked to take a position on the public policy issue: **“Should Michigan adopt the Kirtland’s warbler as the state bird?”**

It should take about 20 minutes for you to complete your response.

Choose information from the following data sections, and use it with what you know to support your position.

A NEW STATE BIRD

The robin is the state bird of Michigan, but there are people in Michigan who want to name the Kirtland’s warbler as the state bird. While the robin is common to many parts of the United States, the Kirtland’s warbler lives only in Michigan and flies to the Bahamas in the winter months.

DATA SECTION

Part A

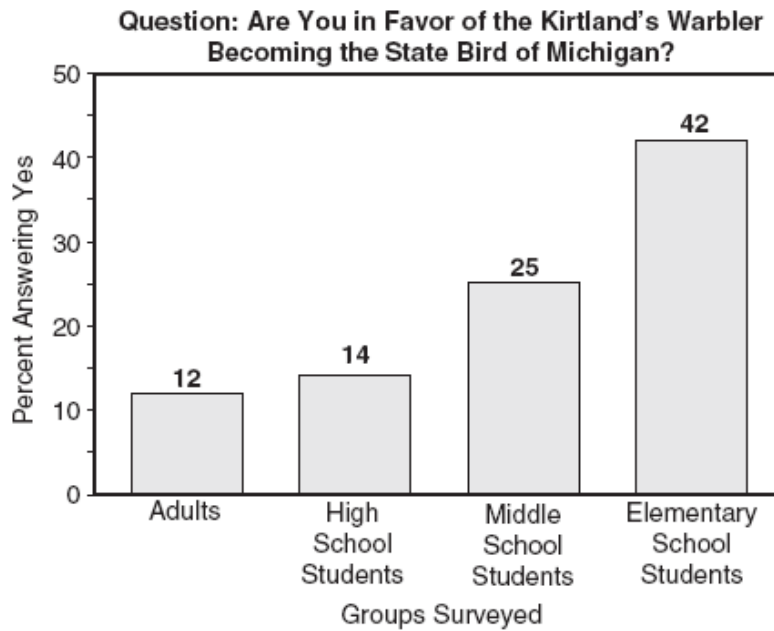
The table below compares the robin, the current Michigan state bird, and the Kirtland’s warbler.

Robin	Kirtland’s Warbler
• State bird of three states	• Unique to Michigan
• Seen in all of the state’s counties	• Seen in many of the state’s counties
• Limited economic value	• Encourages tourism
• Not an endangered bird	• An endangered bird
• Recognized by most people	• Unfamiliar to most people

DATA SECTION (continued)

Part B

A local student group asked the people in their community if the Kirtland's warbler should be the state bird of Michigan. Here are the results from their survey:



21 Taking a Stand

You will now take a stand on the public policy issue:

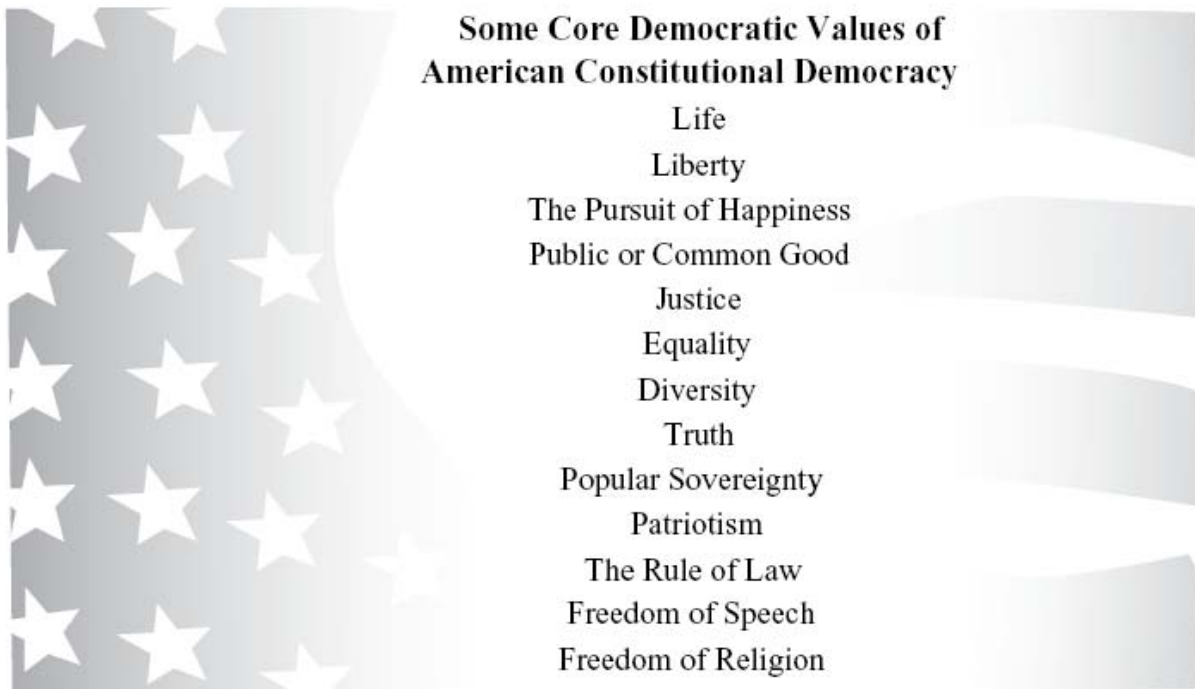
“Should Michigan adopt the Kirtland’s warbler as the state bird?”

You may either support or oppose the state’s proposal to adopt the Kirtland’s warbler as the state bird. Write a letter to your state representative explaining your position on the issue.

You will be graded on the following criteria. Your letter must include:

- a clear and supported statement of your position;
- supporting information using a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy; and
- supporting information from the Data Section.

- Remember:**
- Write or print neatly on the lines provided in your **Answer Document** using a No. 2 pencil.
 - No additional sheets may be used.
 - Nothing written in this booklet will be scored.



Holistic Feature Scoring of Civic Writing: Grades 6

Points	Description
3	<p>In order to receive a 3-point score, the response must</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give a clearly stated position on the issue and support for that position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Students should use words such as support/oppose, for/against, agree/disagree, or should/should not – Do not accept those who do not take a stand, who say someone else (parents, school, or government) should decide the issue 2. Provide at least one supporting point that is based on the Core Democratic Values of American constitutional democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position 3. Provide at least one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position – Data interpretations must be more right than wrong
2	<p>In order to receive a 2-point score, the response must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue, and • contain at least 1 of the remaining 2 elements
1	<p>In order to receive a 1-point score, the response must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue
0	<p>Response shows no evidence of a clear position or the position is not supported in any way.</p>

NOTE: The supporting points used by students must be explained in enough detail to show a clear connection to the position taken.

Anchor Paper 1 – Score Point 3

Dear state representative,

I understand that there is an issue about if the Kirtland's Warbler should be the state bird instead of the Robin. I believe that Robins should remain our state bird.

In the Constitution we are all given the right of Popular Sovereignty. Popular Sovereignty means voting. The information given reports that, a majority of people want the Robin to remain our state bird. More people voted no on the issue.

In Part A of the Data Section, the chart compares the two birds. The chart compares that, the Robin is the state bird of three states and the Kirtland's Warbler is unique to Michigan, Robins are seen in all counties of Michigan and the Kirtland's Warbler is seen in most counties of Michigan, the Robin has little economic value and the Kirtland's Warbler encourages tourism, Kirtland's Warblers are endangered and Robins are not, and most people recognize Robins but a scarce amount of people can recognize the Kirtland's Warbler. The Robin is more up to the standards to be a state bird.

Therefore, I believe that, the Robins should remain Michigan's state bird. By using Popular Sovereignty majority would more than likely rule. If that happens the Robin will remain Michigan's state bird.

Sincerely,

**Anchor Paper 1:
Score Point 3****Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I believe that Robin should remain our state bird.*) and adequately supports the position by correctly applying the CDV and the Data.

Core Democratic Value: “Popular Sovereignty”

The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*In the Constitution we are all given the right of Popular Sovereignty. Popular Sovereignty means voting. The information given reports that, a majority of people want the Robin to remain our state bird. More people voted no on the issue. ...By using Popular Sovereignty majority would more than likely rule. If that happens the Robin will remain Michigan’s state bird.*)

Data:

The response provides multiple pieces of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*In Part A of the Data Section... the Robin is the state bird of three states and the Kirtland’s Warbler is unique to Michigan, Robins are seen in all counties of Michigan and the Kirtland’s Warbler is seen in most counties of Michigan. the Robin has little economic value and the Kirtland’s Warbler encourages tourism. Kirtland’s Warblers are endangered and Robins are not, and most people recognize Robins but a scarce amount of people can recognize the Kirtland’s Warbler. The Robin is more up to the standards to be a state bird.*)

Anchor Paper 2 – Score Point 3

Dear State Representative,

I think that it would be a great idea to change the state bird from the Robin, to the Kirtland's Warbler. What do you think?

Here are some of my supporting reasons.

By changing the state bird, we could get more tourism in Michigan, because this is the only state that has them. By getting more tourists, we could raise more money for schools, fire and police departments, and businesses. This would help Michigan's economy, and if the economy goes up, more people will move here.

Another reason I think we should change the state bird is because, we could help it to not be endangered. There are so many robins, and less Kirtland's warblers than you think. It is the common good to help people, but in this case animals in need. They are so scarce, and we can help them to keep up their lives by tagging them.

My last reason is that I think we need a change. Michigan has been the same for so long, and most people would agree with me that we want a change. In conclusion, I think we should change the state bird from a Robin, to a Kirtland Warbler.

Anchor Paper 2
Score Point 3**Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I think that it would be a great idea to change the state bird from the Robin, to the Kirtland's Warbler.*) and adequately supports the position by correctly applying the CDV and the Data.

Core Democratic Value: "Common Good"

The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. While the naming of the CDV occurs in the third paragraph's discussion of what is good for animals (*It is the Common good to help people...*), in the second paragraph the Common Good that would result from changing the state bird is clearly explained. (*By getting more tourests, we could raise more money for schools, Fire and police departments, and businesses. This would help Michigans economy, and if the economy goes up, more people will move here.*)

Data:

The response provides a preponderance of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*By changing the state bird, we could get more tourism in Michigan....*) The response adds (*...we could help it [Kirtland's Warbler] to not be endangered.*) The two correct pieces of supporting data overcome the incorrect data referenced (*...most people would agree with me that we want a change.*) According to the data, a higher percentage of people support keeping the Robin as the state bird for Michigan.

Anchor Paper 3 – Score Point 3

My position on the debate on whether the Kirtland's Warbler should, or should not be Michigan's new state bird is yes it should.

I have concluded my answer to this because of the data that was shown to me. The Kirtland's Warbler is a unique bird to Michigan. It's seen in many counties in Michigan. This bird has encouraged tourists to come to Michigan, and my increase population as well.

This debate can convert into one of the Core democratic values that have been presented to us over the past years. I believe that the value that applies to the debate is Liberty and another pursuit of happiness as well. I've chosen Liberty because mean everyone has the choice to think, act, and believe with out the government interfering. So if a person decides that they believe that the state bird should be changed, and vote for it the government may not be against it or anybody else. My second choice to a core democratic value was pursuit of happiness. I've picked this one because if a person decides that they want the Kirtland's Warbler as a state bird for Michigan they can praise it. They may praise their happiness as long as it does not conflict with anybody else's rights. →

My position on this debate is the Kirtland's wabler be our state bird for Michigan beac on all fact and opinions.

Anchor Paper 3
Score Point 3

Position:

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*My position on the debate on weather the Kirtland's Wabler should, or should not be Michigans new state is yes it should.*) and adequately supports the position by correctly applying the CDV and the Data.

Core Democratic Value: "Pursuit of Happiness"

The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*...pursuit of happiness. I've picked this one beause if a person decides that they want the Kirtland's Wabler as a state bird for Michigan the can pruse it. They may pruse their happiness aslong as it does not confict with anybody elses rights.*) The response is acceptable as one core democratic value is correctly and completely applied in support of the position. A second core democratic value (*Liberty*) is identified, but is not applied in support of the position. A third core democratic value is not labeled or applied, but is correctly defined (*If a person decides that they belife that the state bird should be changed, and vote for it the government may not be aginst it or anybody else. [Popular Sovereignty].*)

Note: Credit is awarded for Core Democratic Value in the event that at least one CDV is adequately applied in support of the position. If multiple CDVs are identified, but not defined/applied correctly in support of the position, the point is awarded for the correct CDV application.

Data:

The response provides three pieces of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*The Kirtland's Wabler is a unique bird to Michigan. It's seen in many counties in Michigan. This bird has encouraged torist to come to Michigan....*)

Anchor Paper 4 – Score Point 3

Dear State representative

I think that we should adopt the Kirtland's warbler because the bird lives in Michigan most of the time. Also as you can see in the chart 42% of the Elementary School Students voted to have the Kirtland's warbler as the state bird. Also Life goes along with we getting a new state pet because we can do anything we want as long as we don't hurt others.

Anchor Paper 4 Score Point 3

Position:

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I think that we should adopt the Kirtland's Warbler...*) and adequately supports the position (*...because the bird lives in Michigan most of the time.*)

Core Democratic Value: "Pursuit of Happiness"

The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*...Life [Pursuit of Happiness mislabeled as Life] goes along with we getting a new state pet because we can do anything we want as long as we don't hurt others.*) The response is acceptable as it clearly defines and adequately applies the mislabeled CDV Pursuit of Happiness in support of the position.

Data:

The response provides one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*...42% of the Elementary School Students voted to have the Kirtland's Warbler as the state bird.*) The response is acceptable as it correctly interprets data in support of the position. The minority percentage of elementary students in favor of changing the state bird is acceptable because the statement supports the chosen position to change the state bird.

Anchor Paper 5 – Score Point 2

I one hundred percent disagree with adopting the Kirtland's warbler as Michigan's state Bird. I disagree because the beautiful Robin has been our state bird forever. We can not just change it now. That would practically be changing our whole entire history.

The core democratic value that supports my position is patriotism because the robin is and will be our state bird forever. It is part of Michigan just like any other state symbol. So it shall stay the state bird.

According to the data twenty-five of fifty percent of middle school want to keep it. Only twelve adults don't want it to change because most of them know that the Robin is the state bird. The Robin has a lot of history to it in Michigan. So we can't change it now.

In conclusion we shall never, ever change our state bird. State anything in that matter.

Anchor Paper 5
Score Point 2**Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I... disagree with adopting the kirtland's warbler as Michicans state Bird.*) and adequately supports the position (*...because the beautiful Robin has been our state bird forever. We can not just change it now.*)

Core Democratic Value: "Patriotism"

The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*The core democratic value that supports my position is Patrisim because the robin is and will be our state bird for ever. It is part of Michigan just like any other state symbol. So it shall stay the state bird.*)

Data:

The response does not provide a preponderance of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. One piece of data is correctly used to support the position (*According to the data twenty-five of fifty percent of middle school want to keep it [robin]*), and one piece of data is incorrectly explained (*Only twelve adults don't want it to change....*) The second piece of data incorrectly interprets Data Section B as it does not use the correct scale to identify a group of people surveyed on the issue. The Data presents groups surveyed on the issue based upon percentage in favor of changing the state bird. It is not acceptable to substitute whole numbers of citizens in place of the actual percentage of people.

Note:: Generally, the scale of numbering used to explain Data Section B must correctly identify the numbers in percentage format. One exception does award credit for a slight misinterpretation of the number scale (e.g., interpreting the data using whole numbers rather than percentages). If the response provides multiple pieces of data based on the percentages in Data Section B, it is acceptable to provide one (or more) incorrect uses of the number scale, so long as at least one specific piece of data correctly explains the data as a percentage. In such a case, the error(s) are considered a "clear slip of the pen" (see the Annotated Scoring Guide on the MEAP website for more discussion of "clear slip of the pen": www.mi.gov/meap).

Anchor Paper 6 – Score Point 2

Dear State representative,

I think the Kirtlands warbler should be the state bird for Michigan. I think it should be the state bird because it would be unique because no other state has the Kirtlands warbler. The Robin is three other states state bird.

The core democratic value I choose is Diversity.

I choose diversity because Michigan should be diverse from the other states that have the Robin as their state bird. The kirtlands warbler would be different from any other state bird.

In data section A it shows that the Robin is the state bird of three states and the kirtlands warbler is unique to Michigan. Also the warbler is an endangered species and the Robin is not. In data section B over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people surveyed said yes. That is why I think the kirtlands warbler should be the state bird of Michigan.

Anchor Paper 6
Score Point 2**Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I think the Kirtlands warbler should be the state bird for Michigan.*) and adequately supports the position using correct Data.

Core Democratic Value:

The response does not provide an adequate supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*I choose diversity because Michigan should be diverse from the other states that have the Robin as their state bird. The Kirtlands Warbler would be different from any other state bird.*) The response is inadequate as the CDV Diversity is not correctly applied to the people of Michigan. Whether states have differing state birds or not is not an acceptable understanding of Diversity as a Core Democratic Value.

Data:

The response provides a preponderance of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*In data section A it shows that the Robin is the state bird of three states and the kirtlands warbler is unique to Michigan. Also the warbler is an endangered species and the Robin is not.*) The four correct pieces of supporting data trump the incorrect data referenced (*In date section B over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people surveyed said yes.*) The data shows that no individual group of people surveyed favored changing the state bird by more than 42%. It is an incorrect interpretation of the data to sum the percentages across all groups surveyed.

Anchor Paper 7 – Score Point 2

Dear state representative,

Yes, I think the Kirtland's warbler should be the state bird. In the constitution it states common good is for the good of all people. For the common good for Michigan, I think the Kirtland's warbler should be the state bird. In the data it also states if we pick the Kirtland's warbler it will bring more tourism, which is a good thing. In conclusion, I still think the Kirtland's warbler should be the state bird.

from,

Anchor Paper 7 Score Point 2

Position:

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*Yes, I think the Kirtland's warbler should be the state bird.*) and adequately supports the position by the reference to the Data section.

Core Democratic Value:

The response does not provide an adequate supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*In the constitution it states common good is for the good of all people. For the common good for Michigan, I think the Kirtland's warbler should be the state bird. ...if we pick the Kirtland's warbler it will bring more tourism, which is a good thing.*) -- The response does not adequately apply the CDV Common Good, as it does not explain who would benefit from the increased tourism, nor does it provide a complete description of how the state of Michigan would benefit from increased tourism.

Data:

The response provides one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*...if we pick the Kirtland's warbler it will bring more tourism....*)

Anchor Paper 8 – Score Point 2

I think they should keep the robin because the Kirtland's Warbler is endangered. They are almost all gone, the robin will always be around. If we change it I think it will be a wrong decision.

Anchor Paper 8**Score Point 2****Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I think they should keep the robin.*) and adequately supports the position in the reference to the Data section.

Core Democratic Value:

The response makes no attempt to provide a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy.

Data:

The response provides one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*...the Kirtland's Warbler is endangered.*)

Anchor Paper 9 – Score Point 1

I think we should adopt the Kirtland Warbler because it is mostly in Michigan. Another statement would be because it is cool how it flies to the Bahamas for the winter. Also the votes are high for it.

The core democratic value is Common Good. Common Good is the good for all people. For how many votes were in the data table we should have the Kirtland Warbler as the state bird.

According to the data 12 adults, 14 high school students, 25 middle school students, and 42 elementary students. All voted for the Kirtland Warbler bird to be the state bird.

As a concluding sentence it would be that as many votes as they had we should have the Kirtland Warbler as our bird.

Anchor Paper 9
Score Point 1**Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I think we should adopt the Kirtland Warbler*) and adequately supports the position (...because it is mostly in Michigan. [and] ...because it is cool how it flies to the Bahamas for the winter.)

Core Democratic Value:

The response does not provide an adequate supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*The core democratic value is Common Good. Common Good is the good for all people. For how many votes were in the data table we should have the Kirtland Warbler as the state bird.*) The response does not adequately apply the CDV Common Good as it does not explain the potential benefit to the people of Michigan. The response also does not adequately apply the mislabeled CDV Popular Sovereignty as it does not explain that a majority of votes could result in support to change the state bird. Based on the data, the votes in favor of Kirtland's Warbler were less than 50% across all groups surveyed. Thus, the CDV Popular Sovereignty is not acceptable as it does not support the position on the issue.

Data:

The response does not provide one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*According to the data 12 adults, 14 high school students, 25 middle school students, and 42 elementary students. All voted for the Kirtland Warbler bird to be the statebird.*) The response is inadequate as it does not use the correct number scale. The data is incorrectly described in terms of whole numbers of people rather than based on percentages.

Note: The reference to the Kirtland's Warbler and the Bahamas is part of the prompt's introductory material. It is not part of the specific data sections that students are asked to use in their responses. No data credit is awarded for such a reference.

Anchor Paper 10 – Score Point 1

No. I think Michigan should keep the Robbin as the state bird because they never fly down South for the winter so, we can see them all the time. We cant see the Kirtland's warbler in the winter we can only see Kirtland's warbler in the spring and summer. The Kirtland's warbler is so annoying and the robbin's chirp is wonderful to hear. Pursuit of Happiness means we the people should be happy. I would be happy if we keep the robbin as our state bird. This is why we should keep the robbin as our state bird.

Anchor Paper 10 Score Point 1

Position:

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*No. I think Michigan should keep the Robbin as the state bird...*) and adequately supports the position (*...because they never fly down South for the winter so, we can see them all the time.*)

Core Democratic Value:

The response does not provide an adequate supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. (*Pursuit of Happiness means we the people should be happy. I would be happy if we keep the robbin as our state bird.*) The response does not adequately apply the CDV Pursuit of Happiness as it does not indicate that people can pursue happiness as long as they do not hurt or endanger others.

Data:

The response makes no attempt to provide one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section.

Anchor Paper 11 – Score Point 1

I support changing the state bird from a robin to the Kirtland's Warbler. In this letter I will state my reasons for wanting to change the state bird.

I support changing the state bird. The data tables show that the Kirtland's Warbler is better for Michigan. The Kirtland's Warbler has more signs pointing to Michigan than the robin. I think we should change the state bird.

Those are some of the reasons that I think we should change the state bird from a Robin to the Kirtland's Warbler.

Anchor Paper 11
Score Point 1

Position:

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I support changing the state bird from a robin to the Kirtland's Warbler.*) and adequately supports the position (*...the Kirtland's Warbler is better for Michigan. The Kirtland's Warbler has more signs pointing to Michigan than the robin.*)

Core Democratic Value:

The response makes no attempt to provide a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy.

Data:

The response does not provide one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section. (*The data tables show that the Kirtland's Warbler is better for Michigan.*) The data reference provided is too vague to support the position.

Anchor Paper 12 – Score Point 1

Dear state. I think that we should adopt the Bird cause I think some people will love to see it. I would like to see the Bird

**Anchor Paper 12
Score Point 1****Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*I think that we should adopt the Bird...*) and adequately supports the position (*...cause I think some people will love to see it.*)

-- The response is acceptable as it identifies and supports adopting a new bird [Kirtland's Warbler].

Core Democratic Value:

The response makes no attempt to provide a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy.

Data:

The response makes no attempt to provide one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section.

Anchor Paper 13 – Score Point 0

I am going to be writing about Michigan adopt the Kirtland's warbler as the state bird I dont think so because we already have the robin and it would be equal to the robin if the Kirtland warbler took over its place and michigan knows more about the Robin than the Kirtland warbler and but if I was going to say I would want the Kirtland warbler people think it is unique and its endangered so we could protect it so it cant be gone forever that what I think about changing the state bird

Anchor Paper 13 Score Point 0

Position:

The response provides one clearly stated position on the issue (...Michigan adopt the Kirtland's Warbler as the state bird I dont think so) and adequately supports the position (because we already have the robin....) The response also provides a second position with support on the issue which contradicts the original position. (...if I was going to say I would want the Kirtland Warbler people think it is unique and its endangered....). No credit is awarded for the entire response.

Core Democratic Value:

The response makes no attempt to provide a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. No credit is awarded.

Data:

The response provides two pieces of accurate, valid, relevant supporting information from the Data Section (...it is [Kirtland's Warbler] unique and its endangered....). However, data is credited only when supporting a single, clear position. No credit is awarded.

Anchor Paper 14 – Score Point 0

Yes I think michigan should adopt warbler as
the state bird.

**Anchor Paper 14
Score Point 0****Position:**

The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue (*Yes I think michigan should adopt warbler as the state bird.*) but does not provide any support for the position. No Credit is Awarded for the entire response.

Core Democratic Value:

The response makes no attempt to provide a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American Constitutional Democracy. No Credit Awarded.

Data:

The response makes no attempt to provide one piece of accurate, valid, relevant supporting information from the Data Section. No Credit Awarded.

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