

1963

Controlled Burns' Slated in Warbler Area

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part series on the Kirtland's Warbler, Michigan's only true native bird; the tiny bird's personality; and the management area that is being set up near Mio to insure suitable habitat for the warbler in the years to come.)

By HOWARD COGAN
(Times State Editor)

MIO—"Controlled burns," not new in forest management programs on a small scale, will be given the acid test under plans outlined for the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area southeast of here.

A 500-acre tract being timbered out now in the warbler area is to go under the torch possibly as soon as October, depending on lumbering commitments.

It will be the largest burnoff ever attempted in Michigan, said Vern Stricker, biologist with the U.S. Forest Service at Cadillac. It will answer a lot of questions with far-reaching implications on other forest management programs in the future.

Burnoffs of land due to forest fires have been known to actually speed up production of wildlife, deer, rabbit, game birds as well as song birds.



This is me and my
DADDY SAYS WHEN
I GET OLDE NUFF
TO GET MARRIED
I CAN PICK OUT A
SMART HUSBIND
IF I JUST WACH
WHO BUYS THERE
INSURENCE FROM

CAVANAUGH
INSURANCE AGENCY
Midland and Linn Streets
Dial TW 3-6771

And there are many sportsmen who are firmly convinced that "a darn good fire could do more good than harm."

CONSERVATION officers and forest service officials are quick, however, to caution against this.

"Conditions today, due to the cold spring and lack of heavy snow during the winter, are still posing a distinct fire menace to the northern Michigan area.

"We could have a blinger of a fire, despite our new methods of controlling them and the maze of roads and fire lanes that now deter modern-day fires from spreading over extensive portions of the landscapes as did the great fires in the first two decades of the century," said Charles F. Welch, education supervisor for Region II of the conservation department, and John Byelich, Gaylord district biologist.

"There are still a great many variables in conducting what we call a 'controlled burn,'" said Stricker.

The weather is a big determining factor.

"The fire has to sweep through an area quickly," said Byelich. "And it must be hot enough to open the pods of pine trees, but not so hot it burns the seeds."

HE POINTED to an area in the warbler management confines which 50 years ago housed prairie chicken. Such a bird needs almost plains habitat, with little or no trees.

The jack pine, oak and other trees now evident in this same area are about 50 years old.

During that 50 years from the start following a great fire in the Mio area, wildlife has almost gone full cycle, it was explained.

"First there were the prairie chicken, rabbits, deer. And as the trees grew back, the prairie chicken soon was gone, then the rabbit."

The area is going to be managed now primarily for the



TIMBER USES PICTURED—In the U.S. Forest Service's multi-use plan of forest management, industry is created, wildlife protected, and the future of the northland lures. In this photo, recently cut jack pine awaits commercial haulers following cuttings. It will be burned off perhaps in October to start a new cycle of timber growth here.

—Photo by Keith

Kirtland's warbler, but the same management procedures will assist other wildlife.

THE AREA where the burn

Pacifists Plan March on Havana

QUEBEC — (AP) — Pacifists hoping to demonstrate at the Guantanamo U.S. Naval Base in Cuba and then in Havana launched a 2,700-mile peace march yesterday.

Fifteen marchers, most of them from the United States, expect to arrive in Miami in December. If allowed to go on to Guantanamo they plan to march on to Havana.

They trained here by taking 15-mile hikes. Picketing the Russian embassy in Ottawa and the U.S. consulate in Montreal, they said they oppose violence and have no political affiliations.

will take place used to abound with warblers as well as partridge. But in the past decade, none of either species have been seen.

Stricker, in outlining the moves the forest service will undertake to assure suitable nesting habitat for the warblers, described an automated box-like picture where sections of the 4,010 acres in the management area will be constantly in motion.

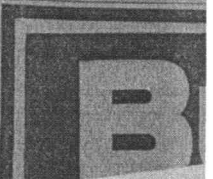
Following the burnoff, new trees will sprout along with berries. As the trees grow, probably about seven years from now, the area is expected to be favored again with warblers and other wildlife. Then as the trees get larger, they will be timbered off and the area again made ready for a burn to start the process all over.

It is sort of a rotation plant-

ing program under Forest Service's multi-of managing the stat land.

GIVING THE progr warbler managem priority is the growing the tiny birds, the species native to might become extinct There are from 80 of the warblers left, to the 1960 census of ducted by Toledo natu old Mayfield.

Dedication of the management area is for Saturday here wit officials of the forest se the conservation d slated to be on hand.



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Little Kirtland Warbler Causes Big Stir At Mio

MIO, Mich., March 2 — Somewhere in the sunny Bahamas, a diminutive little yellow and gray warbler, weighing about half an ounce, is rollicking in the sun while here in Oscoda County these same birds are responsible for the roaring of power saws in the old jack pines on the Huron National Forest Kirtland Warbler Management area.

The reason for all the tree cutting is the peculiar habits of this little Kirtland warbler. It nests in certain patch stands of jack pine, 10 to 15 years old, and the pine must have low growing, live branches.

Not only that; the jack pines must be in the AuSable River area for Manistee jack pine doesn't draw them and neither do any of the jack pine stands in other states.

Now the Packaging Corporation of America has agreed to harvest 5,000 cords of mature jack pine from the first management unit of 640 acres, these cords to be used as pulp wood for the paper mill at Filer City.

Then seeds will be planted and the program will be con-

tinued until there is a regular stand of the type of trees each year in which the Kirtland warbler can nest.

It is not merely the Packaging Company of America that is interested, The Michigan Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, U. S. Forest Service, Michigan Dept. of Conservation and many others are interested in the project.

One of the individuals keenly interested in the project is Harold Mayfield, Toledo ornithologist who is considered one of the leading authorities on this little bird and is the author of the book, "The Kirtland Warbler."



—K. Courtyer Photo

THE KIRTLAND WARBLER
Causes stir in Michigan

