



... A Gay Little Songbird

A gay little songbird that has brought melodious tunes to generations of Michiganites shared top billing at a statewide Tree Farm dedication near Mio, Mich. last year.

The event, held during the Great Lakes Forestry Exhibition, saw a group of proud woodland owners receive their Tree Farm signs and certificates and then the dedication of a stone monument to the vanishing Kirtland's Warbler.

Former AFPI Trustee Gordon B. Bonfield of Packaging Corporation of America was key speaker. This company has a 4,000-acre Kirtland's Warbler Management Area near Mio.

National Audubon Secretary Roger Tory Peterson, famed wildlife artist, shared the speaker's platform with Bonfield and a number

of newly certified tree farmers.

Experts say that only 1,000 of the tail-wagging, yellow and gray warblers exist in the world. Their total weight would be about 30 pounds. The warblers are the world's fussiest homemakers--and this, in part, could be the reason for their vanishing numbers.

Kirtland's warblers nest in certain patchy stands of jack pine--usually 10 to 15 years old--and they are particular where they live, preferring the Au Sable River Valley in northeastern Lower Michigan.

Under a cooperative plan with the U. S. Forest Service, Packaging Corporation of America is harvesting mature jack pine for pulpwood as a first step in attaining the long range objectives of more nesting habitat for the little birds.



Bonfield and Peterson



The Monument