

Newspaper

Dwarf Jack Pine Experiment May Give Kirtland's Warblers What They Seek

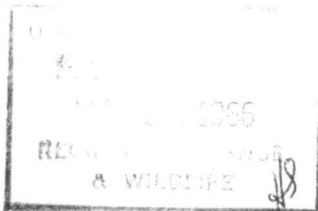
Michigan's rare Kirtland's warblers, the estimated 1,000 birds that nest only in the northern lower peninsula, may get what they have always been hunting for: jack pine stands never more than 15 ft. high. These stands are where the little birds nest. Controlled burn management areas have been created to give them such nesting habitat.

Now Jonathan Wright, a forestry specialist at Michigan State University, is starting a plantation experiment of

dwarf jack pines in the northeast of Sec. 3 T25N R3E about four miles south and four miles east of Mio and north of the Mack Lake management burn area. If the dwarf species take hold a long-age stand would be available for generations of birds which have a strong homing instinct for such counties as Oscoda where Mio has erected a statue to the endangered species.

The U. S. Forest Service Mio ranger station is constructing a 20x20 ft. wire cage 6 ft. high for cowbird research and control in the Mack Lake area. Dr. N. L. Cuthbert, of Central Michigan University, is now in the area and for a second year removing cowbirds to study the impact they have on the warblers. Cowbirds utilize warbler nests, never building a nest of their own, but depositing their eggs in those of other birds with the result that many warbler young die when the much larger cowbird young crowds them from the nests or consumes all the food brought by the unsuspecting warbler parents. The trap is an addition to a smaller one used previously.

Warblers are due this month from their migration to the Bahamas. Entrance to the warbler study area is by permit only. Permits may be secured from the ranger office or from the Mio Conservation Department headquarters.



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Kirtlands
Warbler*

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Kirtland warbler File

The Milwaukee Journal

Oct 27, 1964

KEE JOURNAL

Section of Forest Burned to Save Nesting Ground

Mio, Mich. — P — About 250 acres of the Huron national forest went up in smoke — all because of a little bird.

The state conservation department and United States forest service burned the acreage near Mio Wednesday to provide a nesting ground for Kirtland's warbler.

The warbler migrates to the Bahama islands from the forests in Oscoda county, where it summers and nests in low, new growth of jackpine.

Two years ago, only about 1,000 of the warblers summered here, but the total appears higher now that modern fire control methods have allowed the burning of forests to provide nesting grounds.

About 12,000 acres of forests near Mio are maintained to guarantee preservation of the bird.

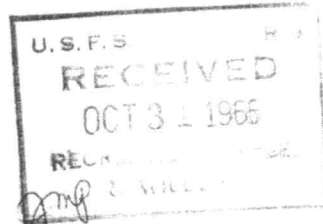
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Kirtland's
Warbler

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Minneapolis Star
10/27/66
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Forest Burned for Warblers

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The state conservation department and U.S. Forest Service burned the acreage near Mio Wednesday to provide a nesting ground for Kirtland's warbler.

The warbler is a rare bird that migrates to the Bahama Islands from the forests in Oscoda County, where it summers and nests in low, new growth of jackpine.

About 12,000 acres of state and national forests near Mio are maintained to guarantee preservation of the bird.

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