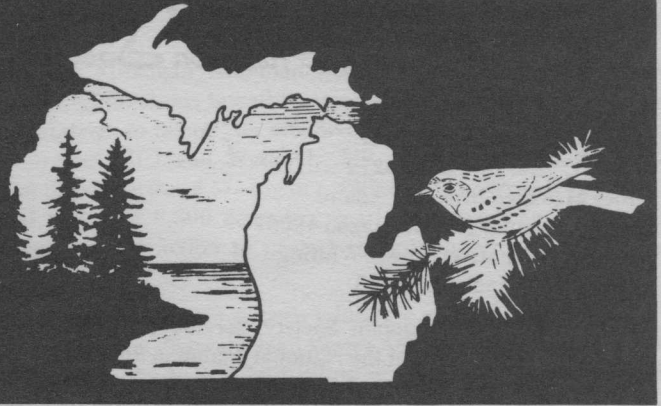


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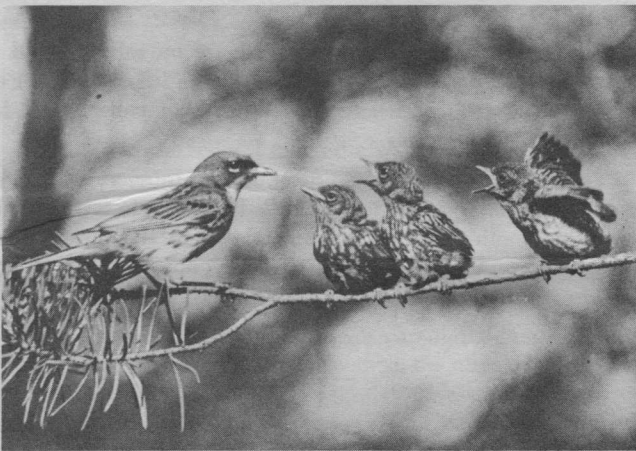


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The Kirtland's Warblers



Edward Brigham, Jr. Photo

K.W.'s Found Out of State

The Kirtland's Warbler, which is known to nest only in Michigan, has also been sighted this year in Wisconsin, Ontario and Quebec. One male that was discovered by a University of Toronto research team near Petawawa, in eastern Ontario, in 1977, returned again this year. Another male was netted 60 miles to the east, in the Gatineau Valley in Quebec, the first confirmed record for that province.

In Wisconsin, Nancy Tlighman, wildlife ecologist for the Wisconsin DNR, while on reconnaissance of potential nesting sites for the warbler, discovered two singing males near Black River Falls.

Dr. Lawrence Walkinshaw and John Byelich, on June 21, succeeded in capturing one of the Wisconsin birds. It had been banded by Walkinshaw at the Artillery Range, 10 miles NE of Grayling, Crawford County, on June 25, 1972.

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Census Shows Decline

The 1978 Kirtland's Warbler Census results are in, and the warbler's numbers are down about ten percent, according to Dr. Larry Ryel, Chief of the DNR's Surveys and Statistical Services Office.

"Birds were found in six counties in the northern Lower Peninsula," he said. "Most of the decline was in Ogemaw County, which had 22 less singing males this year."

Michigan census takers tallied 193 males, down from 218 in 1977. Adding the four males found outside of Michigan gives a total of 197, which matches the average of the counts of the previous seven years.

The tally by counties (1977 count in parentheses): Crawford 71 (79), Oscoda 62 (59), Ogemaw 40 (62), Kalkaska 16 (11), Iosco 2 (0), Roscommon 2 (6), and Wexford none (1).

The census of the Kirtland's Warbler was carried out at ten-year intervals until the 1971 count showed a 60 percent drop in bird numbers in a decade. Since then, the counts have been made annually, as a cooperative effort by state and federal agencies and Michigan Audubon members.

One M.A.S. warbler expert is reported to have predicted in 1977 that, because of the drought of that year, there might be a decline in 1978. If, indeed, there is a connection, then could the better weather of 1978 suggest an upturn in 1979?

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M.A.S. has received notice that National Audubon dues will be increased beginning September 1, 1978. Renewals and new memberships may be sent in before that date at the old rate. (More on this in the next issue.)

