

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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DECLINE OF ABOUT 10 PER CENT
FOUND IN KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

Editor: Bill Loewenstein
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LANSING--The Department of Natural Resources reports that the 1978 census of the Kirtland's Warbler shows a decline of about 10 per cent in world's population of this rare songbird.

The census, conducted under the general direction of Dr. Lawrence Ryel, Chief of the DNR's Surveys and Statistical Services Office, included personnel from the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and interested members of the public.

John Byelich, retired DNR wildlife biologist and leader of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team, says a total of 197 males was tallied this year compared to 219 in 1977. Assuming an equal number of females, the total breeding population would be just under 400, he says.

The Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appointed team assembled for the purpose of preparing a plan for the recovery of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler.

In the northern Lower Peninsula, the traditional breeding range of the rare bird, census takers found 193 males, down from 218 in 1977.

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

(more)

