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DNR NEWS

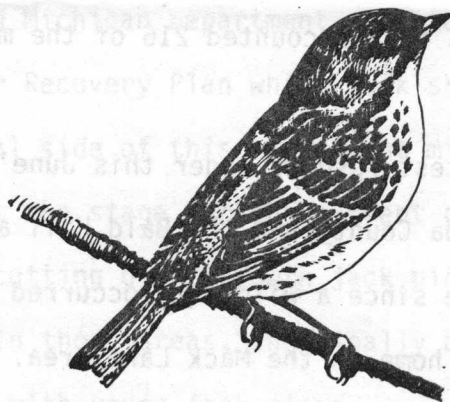
2 July 86

NEWS SUMMARY

- 1) Kirtland's Warbler Numbers Stable; Habitat Work Shows Hope For Upswing.
- 2) NRC Approves 1986 Hunting Rules

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SKETCH FOR EDITORS:

This rare bird, so animated with its liquid, bubbling song and bobbing tail, is unique to Michigan. Each spring and summer, it nests exclusively in northeastern Lower Michigan, taking up "home" in young stands of jack pine. Thus, the world's endangered population of this songbird, which winters in the Bahamas, depends entirely upon its nesting success in Michigan. Joint state and federal efforts to save the Kirtland's warbler are keyed to the bird's very restrictive habitat requirements. This warbler nests only in young jack pine stands which are usually over 80 acres in size. The stand is characterized by having dense clumps of trees interspersed with numerous small, grassy openings. The birds nest on the ground in the openings or under the branches of the small jack pines. They will begin nesting in such stands when the trees are five feet high (Christmas-tree size), and continue using such habitat until the lower branches of the trees start dropping off. This occurs about the time the trees reach a height of 16 to 20 feet.



(more)

