

Kirtland's Warblers in Wisconsin and Ontario, check-list update, photos of rare birds, Whooping Cranes

Kirtland's Warblers breed outside Michigan again

The good times continue to roll for the Kirtland's Warbler. In Michigan, the annual spring census of singing males counted a record 1,792 birds, up from 1,697 last year. The vast majority were in the core breeding range in central Michigan, and a record 34 were tallied in the state's Upper Peninsula.

And for the second straight year, the endangered wood-warbler nested in central Wisconsin and on a military base in eastern Ontario.

Warblers came back to a wooded area in Adams County, Wisconsin, where they nested in 2007. State and federal biologists anticipated their return. In April they began trapping Brown-headed Cowbirds, which lay their eggs in other birds' nests — a particular threat to rare birds. More than 400 cowbirds were trapped and removed.

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PIONEER: A male Kirtland's Warbler sings from a perch in Adams County, Wisconsin, on June 7. Ornithologists on the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas banded it on March 20.



Joel Trickett/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROUD MAMA: This female Kirtland's Warbler raised four chicks on the Petawawa military base in Ontario this summer.



Tammy Richard/ONP

NEW HOPE: This young Kirtland's Warbler, photographed on June 27, was one of 10 fledglings in Adams County, Wisconsin.



Jennifer Goettel/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service