

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

July 10, 1957

TO: H. D. Ruhl, In Charge, Game Division

FROM: Lawrence A. Ryel, Game Biologist

SUBJECT: Kirtland Warbler Management Areas

On June 28, Byelich and I met with Harold Mayfield of Toledo and Penn Holden of Grayling Game Club in our office to discuss the Audubon Society's plan of setting up some Kirtland Warbler management areas. Mr. Dockham and Dr. Andrew Berger of the University of Michigan, who are also on the Audubon committee, were unable to attend.

Mayfield feels that several areas, in different counties, in different habitat, and under different Foresters will provide better chances of success and provide more information for future use. He feels that the Commission has indicated they would be receptive toward spending money for management and that they would approve several areas.

He feels that a minimum of 80 acres of suitable habitat is needed for a colony of birds at any one time. By having several sections included in a management unit it will allow different parts of the area to be in varying stages ranging from openings to merchantable trees. A smaller area would require constant management to maintain suitable habitat and a merchantable crop of trees probably could not be grown.

The following three areas were discussed and generally agreed as being the best possibilities.

1. Section 21, 22, 27, and 28, T24N, R1E, Ogemaw County. This is part of the Horseshoe Lake burn of 1946 and much of the area is now coming into Warbler habitat. It is seven miles by road from the Refuge. This year at least two singing males were present. It is about four miles from an active colony in Roscommon County immediately adjacent to the Ogemaw Refuge boundary. It could be used, if needed, as an area to send people interested in seeing the birds. In recent years we have referred all requests received at our office to the colony next to the Refuge.
2. Section 12, 13, and 14, T27N, R1E, Oscoda County, about one mile north of Red Oak. In the past this was a highly productive area but is now largely a stand of dense jack pines ranging up to three inches in diameter. This area will require some management, probably cutting and burning, to produce suitable habitat. Mayfield indicates Oscoda County has had

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the densest populations and seems to be more favorable to the birds for unexplained reasons. Most other good areas in the county are Federally owned.

- 3. Section 5, 6, 7, and 8, T28N, R1W, Crawford County, about one and one-half miles north of Lovells. This is now largely open and needs planting to be suitable. There are a few birds here now in the scattered clumps.

We feel Warbler management will probably benefit game in these areas.

Mayfield apparently intends to discuss his plans with the Game and Forestry Divisions in Lansing before presenting them to the Commission.

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