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Huron-Manistee NP
421 South Mitchell Street
Cadillac, Michigan 49601

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May 7, 1971

Dr. William L. Thompson, President
Michigan Audubon Society
Biology Department
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Dear Dr. Thompson:

Please relay our thanks to your membership for the contribution made this spring to the Kirtland's Warbler Management Project.

In 1970 we continued the singing male census of the area and the cowbird control work on the management area.

The population of singing males on the area has ranged from a known high of 35 in 1961 to a low of 17 in 1967. The number of singing males increased to 22 in 1968 and 1969 and increased again to 25 in 1970. Although much of the nesting habitat that was created by the 1946 Mack Lake Fire is passing beyond the usable stage and the areas treated in 1964 and 1966 are not yet usable nesting habitat, it appears that the birds are using the young red pine that was planted in one of the large open areas. There were 13 of the singing males who had territories in the red pine. This appears to be one reason the population is now increasing even though the jack pine nesting habitat is declining.

Another contributor to the increase of the population may be the cowbird control activity that has been conducted since 1968. Last year one of our foresters on the Mio Ranger District operated the cowbird traps for Dr. Nick Cuthbert to continue his study on the cowbird-warbler relationship.

During 1971 we will be assisting Harold Mayfield in making the third decennial census of the Kirtland's Warbler. On the Management Area we are continuing the cowbird control work for Dr. Cuthbert and plan to treat some additional areas by different methods to create new jackpine stands for nesting habitat.

Your contributions are helping to keep this work going. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

JOHN VON BARGEN
Forest Supervisor

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