

Jerry Weinrich

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June 12, 1973

TO: Robert Strong, District Wildlife Biologist - 5
Philip Baumgras, District Wildlife Biologist - 7 ✓

FROM: Nels I. Johnson, Regional Wildlife Biologist

SUBJECT: Non-game species, Kirtland's Warbler additional responsibility

The Wildlife Division, in cooperation with other interested agencies, is continuing to assume a leadership role in the management of a non-game wildlife species. In the past the Audubon Society, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and private individuals have and still are assuming a major portion of the management responsibility of the Kirtland's Warbler, especially in regards to censusing and surveys. All wildlife in Michigan is a basic management responsibility of the Wildlife Division, and for various reasons the Department of Natural Resources should take a more active part in the management of non-game species; not the least of these is to gain public support for conservation programs and to counter the anti-hunting activities of some groups.

We are asking that biologists, especially in the Mio district and Montmorency County, begin to spend some time getting acquainted with the censusing method used to survey the Kirtland's Warbler population and to acquaint themselves better with the warbler habitat management program.

A number of non-department people who have been working on the Kirtland's Warbler for twenty years will begin the 1973 population count on June 1. These people are very knowledgeable about the warblers and their locations. I suggest that we use their experience to acquaint our biologists with this officially designated rare and endangered species.

To accomplish this I am making the following assignments:

1. Biologists Perez, Weinrich, Bernard, and Carlson are to spend some time with Bill Irvine or Dr. Walkinshaw. Bill will be working in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Crawford County and he will be there most of June and July. Bill is the U.S. Forest Service biologist out of Cadillac. You should contact him direct to make arrangements.
2. These biologists should also spend some time locating other potential Kirtland's Warbler habitat. Record the areas and submit copies of your records to Lansing and Roscommon. For this year, work only in the major counties: Roscommon, Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Iosco, and Montmorency.

Refer all correspondence pertaining to this field order to John Byelich, Wildlife Division, Lansing, with copies to the Regional Office.

NIJ:leg
cc/Bennett
Irvine
Byelich

Nels J. Johnson