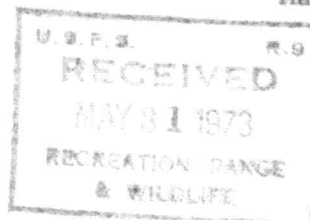


Huron-Manistee National Forests

2630 - Habitat

May 30, 1973

Kirtland's Warbler Management Area



Forest Supervisor

I spent this past weekend on the Mio District and adjacent area observing public use on the various areas where Kirtland's Warblers are nesting.

Except for the KWMA in the Mack Lake area, the public use appeared to be relatively light. I observed a few bird watchers and there were occasional trail bikers traveling through on the trails and other roads.

However, on the KWMA at Mack Lake, it was quite different. The campground was full and a number of trailers were set up in the open area adjacent to the "seed orchard". The majority of these campers had some type of ORV. There were a number of birdwatchers present. They were driving the "rut roads" and some were sleeping in their wagons, vans, etc., in off-road areas. The ORV's could be heard from ~~down to well after~~ dark. They were making use of all the trails, and in some cases, were right out in the young pine where there are warblers.

This experience has convinced me that there is need for more restrictions on the area. I would recommend:

1. The entire area be closed between May 1 and September 15 to vehicular traffic except for the system roads.
2. That all roads and trails, except for the system roads, be "cabled" and posted as closed to vehicles (except for emergency and administrative purposes) during the above dates.
3. That all of the area be signed with the yellow signs now used to mark the area.
4. That there be no overnight camping permitted on the area during the above dates.

*gated*

*MSM*

*PCN*

*RSK*

5. That appropriate penalties be established for these and the other regulations (permits, photo ban, etc.) and that these be included in the collateral forfeiture schedule.
6. That there be an appropriate effort made to enforce these regulations.

The attention that has been drawn to this area and the type of recreationist that is using the Mack Lake Campground makes this type of action necessary for protecting the bird from adverse activities. It does not appear that the restrictions are necessary on the other areas, as yet.

I realize that there are no funds in the 1974 budget for implementing this activity, however, the signing, cabling, etc., may be a project that Michigan Audubon could take on.

GEORGE W. IRVINE  
Wildlife Management Biologist

cc: R.O. ✓  
Mio  
Harold Mayfield  
9235 River Road  
Waterville, Ohio 43566

GWIrvine:mdc