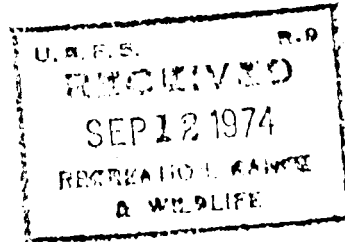


Kirtland's
Warbler

Harold F. Mayfield
9235 River Road
Waterville, Ohio 43566

September 9, 1974

Mr. Jay H. Cravens
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
633 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203



Dear Mr. Cravens:

The rare and endangered species of Kirtland's Warbler apparently has declined 23 percent in the past year. The 1974 count on the nesting ground in northern Lower Michigan revealed only 167 males in comparison to 216 in 1973.

This disappointing turn makes it even more urgent that we not relax our efforts to preserve this attractive bird.

Among those nesting in 1974 the production of young was gratifyingly high - approximately four fledglings per pair of adults - and this yield is attributable mainly to control of cowbirds in the nesting areas. Some factor, as yet unidentified, is operating to depress the population - perhaps the scarcity of exactly suitable habitat for nesting birds in Michigan or perhaps some condition on the wintering ground in the Bahama Islands - but we think cowbird control instituted in 1972 immediately after the recent alarming trend was discovered may have staved off disaster.

We hope additional steps can be taken, including the improvement of habitat on the nesting grounds and study of the problems of survival in the wintering region.

We appreciate your assistance in the past, and we look forward to your active participation in further efforts to preserve this unique bird.

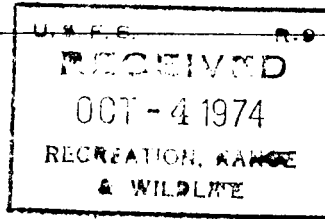
Sincerely yours,

Harold F. Mayfield

Chairman, Kirtland's Warbler
Advisory Committee, Michigan
Audubon Society

FOREST SERVICE

R-9 - RF



October 4, 1974

REPLY TO: 2620 Planning
(1000)

SUBJECT: Kirtland's Warbler



TO: John A. Sandor, Deputy Regional Forester, Resources

The Huron-Manistee National Forest has presented a reasonable, realistic approach to the Kirtland's Warbler Project. I consider this to be our top priority project.

It will take six to eight years to have the habitat ready for increased warbler populations. We must be prepared for the build up that is possible. We need to move ahead in fiscal year 1975 and build our case for subsequent budget years. I do not believe that we have given this process the benefit of a "top priority project."

A number of the items identified in Supervisor Clark's proposal can be accomplished by cooperative efforts of Michigan DNR, FWS, YCC, Work Study, volunteers, etc. Supervisor Clark should take the initiative in this area and call on us as necessary. Lands should "zero" in on needed LWCF purchases, utilizing the State of Michigan as necessary to meet the requirements of the law. Call on Forest Service Research and SPF as appropriate.

- Dr. Sandor's response
the recovery of the

I would like to provide at least the \$32,000 requested by Clark and Weeden. Since this project also provides direct benefits to timber management, I suggest allocating the Forest additional TM funds (Complex, sales administration, TSI - oak control, and reforestation), fire management and wildlife funds. Timber Management, Fire Management, and Wildlife Management should provide assistance in the form of R.O. manpower as needed. In addition the Forest should help themselves and be directed to shift their manpower and dollars to further bolster the effort above the \$32,000. Please meet their ceiling needs.

Please keep me posted on these efforts. Mr. Harold Mayfield's letter needs a response. Tell him what we intend to do and ask for his help with volunteers, cooperative funds and support of the budget process, etc.

R

JAY H. CRAVENS

JAY H. CRAVENS
Regional Forester

cc: Huron-Manistee NF
Recreation ✓
Lands
F&WP

cc: Fire Mgt.
MYCP
OI
Personnel Mgt.