

DISPOSITION FORM

Form 48-10-17, the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.

SUBJECT

Kirtland Warbler Area, Camp Grayling

BG RADIKE

FROM Commander
Camp Grayling

DATE 20 May 1975

CMT 1

On Friday afternoon, 16 May 75, we met with Mr. Byelich and three members of his staff to discuss the revised Kirtland Warbler area on the range 30 complex and the projected nesting period.

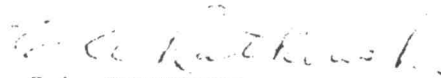
Based, supposedly on a physical count, they have advised that as of Friday, 49 pair of Warblers were nesting in the area covered by the attached map.

After much discussion, we agreed that we would attempt to limit all military traffic to established road ways through this area.

The next discussion of course covered the length of the nesting period. We agreed to extend our restricted movement thru the area from 15 July to 1 August. Mr. Byelich insisted that the period be extended until 15 August due to the fact that they have now discovered, the "little fellows" have been known to have three consecutive nesting periods. LTC Hine, G-3 of the 38th Div. explained their proposed use of the area. The bird watchers were not overly impressed and insisted on extending the period until 15 August.

In view of the apparent impasse at this level, recommend the possibility of resolving this problem at the Departmental level be considered.

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E.A. RUTKOWSKI
COL, Inf, MI ARNG
Commander

May 23, 1975

Mr. Jack Humphill, Director
North Central Region
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

Dear Mr. Humphill:

As team leader for the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team, I wish to advise you of a problem we have not been able to resolve with the administrators of the Michigan National Guard. Basically, the problem involves the Guard's plans to use a Kirtland's Warbler nesting area, which the Recovery Team has declared as being off limits to everyone. The Guard's plan is to use the area for tank training purposes.

For the past few years, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has had an agreement with the National Guard. It included the elimination of all military activities on three square miles located in the center of the Guard's tank maneuvering range until after July 15 of each year. Since the agreement was initiated, approximately two sections of land to the north of the restricted area has developed into good Kirtland's Warbler nesting habitat, and since 1971, the area has become increasingly important as a warbler production area. This is substantiated by the fact that only one pair of birds used the area in 1971 but last year (1974) 19 pairs were counted in the new area. Today more than 86 percent (64 pairs) of the entire world's warbler population is nesting on this area. Since the total population dropped from 216 pairs in 1973 to 167 pairs in 1974 the lowest on record, the Recovery Team concluded that drastic management measures are essential. Thus, it proposed the closing of all known nesting areas to any activity between May 1 and August 15, thereby extending this time by one month.

This proposal was approved by the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) and DNR. Entry was restricted by posting the active breeding habitat. The posting included part of the National Guard area and other forest lands. By this action of the Recovery Team at this late date, a problem has been created for the National Guard people since they have committed the use of the area for military purposes by the Indiana Guard and the militia of other states.

