

Reps. Holcomb, Ostling, Rocca, Spaniola, Cushingberry, Gerald and Vaughn offered the following concurrent resolution:

House Concurrent Resolution No. 731.

A concurrent resolution urging the Michigan National Guard to be more solicitous of their maneuvers so that the safety of the Kirtland's warbler might again be insured.

Whereas, Select areas of northern lower Michigan serve as the sole breeding grounds for the Kirtland's warbler, a rare, tiny bird that migrates to the Bahamas in the fall after nesting in our State; and

Whereas, With only about 200 pairs of the tiny birds in existence, the Kirtland's warbler is officially listed by the federal government as an endangered species. Moreover, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 forbids harassment in any form of officially listed species; and

Whereas, The Michigan National Guard practices artillery shelling at Camp Grayling near one of the prime nesting areas of the Kirtland's warbler. During the month of August this year, the Guard was holding artillery practice in the area when a brush fire broke out. As a result, about 335 acres of land near Grayling, Michigan were burned; and

Whereas, There were estimated to be six pairs of warblers nesting in the fire zone. With only 200 pairs in existence, the loss of just one bird can be highly devastating. Even though no one can be sure how many of the birds, if any, perished in the fire, the consequences to the well-being of the Kirtland's warbler are significant. An ecologically sensitive bird, the Kirtland's warbler requires a specific type of habitat in order to reproduce successfully. Due to the fire, the habitat near Grayling won't be suitable for the warblers for ten to fifteen years, if ever; and

Whereas, In the summer of 1975, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources convinced the National Guard to curtail their military maneuvers during the warbler's nesting season so as not to disrupt the reproductive process. Putting aside the question of the Guard's culpability regarding the outbreak of the brush fire, it would be a wise idea to remove, where possible, all real and potential dangers to the well-being of the warblers and their nesting areas; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Michigan Legislature hereby urge the Michigan National Guard to take every precaution concerning its military maneuvers to avoid any further destruction of the Kirtland's warbler nesting area.

The concurrent resolution was referred to the Committee on House Policy.

STATE OF MICHIGAN



WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING, BOX 30028 LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
HOWARD A. TANNER, Director

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

RL T. JOHNSON
I. LAITALA
DEAN PRIDGEON
HILARY F. SNELL
HARRY H. WHITELEY
JOAN L. WOLFE
CHARLES G. YOUNGLOVE

March 4, 1977

John A. Johnston, MG
Adjutant General and
Director of the Department of
Military Affairs
2500 S. Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 210
Lansing, Michigan 48901

Dear General Johnston:

I have placed your name on the March Natural Resources Commission meeting agenda to give a slide presentation on Kirtland's Warbler.

The public appearance portion of the meeting begins at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 10, in the Law Building Auditorium, First Floor, 525 West Ottawa, Lansing.

Sincerely,

John M. Robertson
Executive Assistant

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STATE OF MICHIGAN



WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

2500 S. WASHINGTON AVE. LANSING, MI 48273

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. JOHNSTON, Director

31 March 1977

Mr. James R. Wieber
Editor, DNR Topics
Stevens T. Mason Building
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Wieber:

The 31 March issue of DNR Topics contains erroneous information regarding the agreement reached by the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Natural Resources about the Kirtland's Warbler that could prove embarrassing to both departments.

Major General John A. Johnston, the Adjutant General of Michigan, in his presentation to the Department of Natural Resources Commission, did not state nor infer that the tank and helicopter gunnery ranges in the Range 30 complex would not be used before 15 August this year. The ranges will be used by tank and helicopter crews beginning in June and continuing thru the summer training cycle.

What General Johnston said was that because of a change in tank models, a modification of the gunship range and an airborne fire suppression system, developed jointly with the Department of Natural Resources, the danger of fires harming the Kirtland's Warbler habitat would be greatly reduced. General Johnston also stated that the Guard would be staying completely out of Sections 7, 8, 16, and the portions of 9, 15, 17 that are designated Kirtland's Warbler habitat in RW2, T27N.

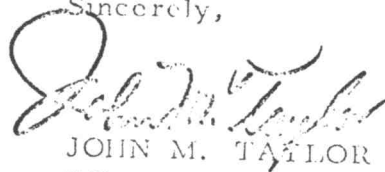
We are confident that Mrs. Wolfe, the Department of Natural Resources Commission and Dr. Howard Tanner clearly understood what had been presented.

Mr. James R. Wieber

31 March 1977

Because of the potential for confusion and misinterpretation, this department would appreciate a correction of this statement in the 14 April issue of the DNR Topics. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



JOHN M. TAYLOR
BG (MI) AGC MI ARNG
Assistant Adjutant General for Army

CF: Mrs. Wolfe
Dr. Tanner
Mr. Scherschligt
Mr. Byelich
Mr. Perez
COL. Rutkowski
COL. Powis
LTC Ostrom

