OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team DATE: February 7, 1979

FROM : Ohio-Michigan Animal Damage Control, through East Lansing Area Office, Fish and Wildlife Service

SUBJECT: Termination of Red Warning Signs

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposes that use of the red, metal Kirtland's Warbler nesting area warning signs be terminated.

Justification

They are targets of theft and vandalism.

They must be removed from storage, put in place and removed each year, at considerable expense.

The metal poles with signs attached must be stored each winter. Storage space is at a premium.

The forest service has objected informally to the placement of these signs on their lands.

The signs are poorly designed, making them difficult to read quickly.

The signs are not necessary for proper posting of closed nesting areas.

In conclusion, the benefits derived from the use of these signs do not outweigh the time and effort expended.

/lak

5010-108

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Memorandum

TO : Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team DATE: February 7, 1979

FROM : Ohio-Michigan
Animal Damage Control, through East Lansing Area
Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SUBJECT: Disposition of Captured Bluejays

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes that collection, holding and transportation of bluejays captured during the Northern Michigan cowbird control program cease; that attempts be made to exclude bluejays from cowbird traps; and that any bluejays captured in cowbird traps be banded and released at the capture site.

Justification - The reasons given in the past for transporting bluejays are not clear, and should be reviewed. The reasons are believed to be: bluejays are predators, or potential predators, of Kirtland's Warbler eggs and nestlings; bluejays in cowbird traps scare off or somehow prevent cowbirds from entering the traps. Other reasons may also have been given. Holding and transporting bluejays does not solve either of the above problems, if they are, in fact, problems.

Band returns show that very few bluejays transported north return to Kirtland's nesting areas during the same year. It is possible that they don't return because they are too far away. It is more likely, however, that they are migrating northward at the time they are captured, and would have left Kirtland's nesting areas anyway, without being transported. If this is the case, considerable time and money is being spent to move bluejays where they would go on their own, and nothing is being accomplished by moving them.

Apparently, there are no documented cases of bluejay predation on Kirtland's eggs and nestlings. If this were a common occurrence resident bluejays would be responsible.

Capture data indicates that birds of all species susceptible to the decoy traps are captured in greatest numbers during migration. Once birds take up residency and begin nesting, they are not likely to be captured. This is probably the case with bluejays. Thus, transporting migrating bluejays is not solving a potential predation problem caused later by resident bluejays.

Concern has been raised that the presence of bluejays in cowbird traps keeps cowbirds away from them. Correlation analysis of available data does not show this to be the case. Application of the data for this purpose may not be entirely valid, however, because some masking factors may be involved.

5010-108

In order to minimize the need to handle bluejays, we propose that cowbird trap entrances be modified, using 1" by 1 1/2" or 1 1/2" square welded wire, to admit cowbirds and exclude bluejays. If bluejays can be kept out of the traps, both manpower loss and potential loss of trap efficiency can be minimized.

Any bluejays captured should be handled the same as other non-target bird species; that is, by banding and release at the capture site. Again, we are assuming that these birds will continue their northward migration without government assistance.

MED:lak

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

February 28, 1979

Dr. Harold Mayfield
River Road
RFD
Waterville, Ohio

Dear Dr. Mayfield:

In your report on the "1961 Decennial Census of the Kirtland Warbler" (Auk 79(2):173-182) you suggested the possibility of a skewed sex ratio favoring males. Have you or anyone else followed up on this to determine the actual ratio?

In working with the Palila and other endangered species in Hawaii, the management implications of skewed sex ratios has recently been brought to my attention (see enclosed manuscript). I would appreciate hearing from you concerning the sex ratio in Kirtlands Warbler and copies of any publications in which this is discussed.

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Scott

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Enclosure