



File Code: 2600

Date: 7/14/98

Subject: KW Monitoring in the UP

To: Rex Ennis and Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team

The purpose of this letter is to provide information for the KW Recovery Team to consider the status of future band monitoring in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In 1998, there were 14 male KW's counted during the official census period in the UP. Follow-up work by Probst, Munson, Bocetti and others resulted in finding an additional 4 or 5 males not counted during the official census. We assume there was movement between stands and peninsulas before, during, and after the census period. Probst has been tracking these movements closely and has additional information. This follow-up band monitoring has also resulted in discovery of at least 4 females at 8-mile (Schoolcraft Co. - Hiawatha NF land) and 3 females at Gwinn (Marquette Co - State/County land). Spring and fall banding has been conducted in the UP since June, 1996 resulting in the banding of 23 UP birds (16 spring, 7 fall). Bocetti and Probst are documenting this recent range expansion.

The overall goal of banding birds in the UP is to assist managers in evaluation of, and planning for, KW habitat improvement projects. The objectives of additional band monitoring would be to provide UP specific information on site fidelity, stand age of first occupancy, within season stand abandonment rates, return rates, survivorship (low precision due to small sample), duration of stand use, as well as tracking movements between stands and between peninsulas. Other monitoring, not necessarily tied to banding could include evaluation of nest success and presence of females.

In addition to discussing the current fall banding session, the team may also want to consider how many more years it will be desirable to conduct banding in the UP. The currently occupied stands (wildfire origin) at 8-mile will be suitable habitat for another 5 years or so. There are several hundred acres of adjacent young jack pine (natural regeneration) that will become suitable in about 5 years. The team may want to consider band monitoring until this stand change-over occurs, in order to evaluate use of new habitat areas created for KW. Understanding these movements may help guide future KW management in the UP.

Funding for this work is still uncertain. Contracting with Paul Thompson would cost approximately \$ 2000.00 for UP fall banding. This cost could likely be broken down into 1 M for Hiawatha lands and 1 M for State/County lands near Gwinn. If Paul is contracted for this year it would likely be completed with Carol's direct oversight. Paul has made some contacts and could work under the permit of Glen Belyea as an "agent of the State" if the Recovery Team provides a letter of support for Paul. Richard Urbanec from Seney NWR may be available to assist with UP banding as well.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Sjogren
Wildlife Biologist

