

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

APR 2 1976

TO : Dick Winters

FROM : Judy Alderson

SUBJECT: News Release, KW project

DATE: April 1, 1976

The Kirtland's warbler, one of our nation's endangered species, will be the object of an intensive protection plan again this year. The Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team, a group of experts designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has drawn up a plan to continue helping the warbler by providing more nesting habitat, removing parasitic cowbirds from the nesting area, and keeping human visits to a minimum. The 1975 census showed an increase of 12 nesting pairs over 1974, and gives hope for another population increase this year.

A decline of 60% in the warbler population from 1961 to 1971 prompted action by biologists to help the bird. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been trapping and removing brown-headed cowbirds which lay their own eggs in the warbler nests, and thus decrease the number of young warblers fledged. The U.S. Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have been involved in the creation of new jack pine habitat to meet the specific needs of the warbler.

Again in 1976, Kirtland's warbler nesting areas will be closed and posted against public entry from May 1 to August 15. Access to the areas will be available by guided tours from both Grayling, Michigan and Mio, Michigan. Daily tours from Grayling begin at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and will continue through July 10. More information may be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist c/o Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 507, Grayling, Michigan, 49738, telephone 517-348-6371. The Mio tours will run daily except Wednesdays until July 24 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Contact the U.S. Forest Service, District Ranger, Huron National Forest, Mio, Michigan, 48647, telephone 517-826-3717 for information on these tours.

Continued public cooperation is needed to ensure the nesting success of the warbler. With your help we can hope for a brighter future for this little songster, and in turn brighten our own future with its presence.

