



ERIE COUNTY NEWS  
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For Immediate Release

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WARBLER TOURS ANNOUNCED - - - - - Sura 612/725-3583

Onlookers will be prohibited from entering Michigan's jackpine barrens where nesting Kirtland's warblers do their maternal-paternal thing, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disclosed today.

Warbler nesting areas will be closed and posted against human intrusion during the nesting season, according to Wesley Jones, a Service biologist.

Perennial public interest follows the warblers from their wintering grounds in the Bahamas to nesting sites in Michigan. Warbler watching, a major spectator sport in Michigan, is regulated to safeguard nesting success, Jones says.

Jones, whose work with endangered species is divided between programs for Michigan warblers and overseeing federal live-trapping of Minnesota wolves, emphasized that remaining colonies of Kirtland's warblers nest only in Michigan; principally in Ogemaw, Oscoda and Crawford counties, he adds.

But Jones said earlier he allows will be permitted to enter the restricted nesting domain once the young birds are up and about.

Guided tours to warbler nesting areas will depart from Grayling and Mio, Mich., at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily, starting May 14. The Mio tour will be conducted through July 22 but will not be scheduled on Wednesdays. The Grayling tour will be offered every day until July 15, Jones said.

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The Fish and Wildlife Service urges large groups interested in touring the areas to contact the following federal or state offices for information on accommodations so that trim schedules can be established. The flighty warblers are more readily seen by small groups, Jones said, and tour guides prefer small audiences when touring nesting areas.

Preseason information may be obtained before May 1 by writing or calling:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Animal Damage Control, c/o Michigan Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division, 5th Floor, Lewis Cass Building, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, Mich., 48909 (517/373-1087).

After May 1, interested persons should contact: Biologist Guide, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, c/o Michigan Department of Natural Resources, District Headquarters, P.O. Box 507, Grayling, Mich., 49738 (517/348-6371).

Or information can be obtained from U.S. Forest Service, District Ranger, Huron National Forest, Mio, Mich., 48647 (517/826-3717).

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