



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NEWS RELEASE

1985 KIRTLAND'S WARBLER TOURS, MICHIGAN

Kirtland's warbler nesting areas in northern Michigan will be closed and posted against public entry during the 1985 nesting season. Warbler watchers may see the bird and view nesting areas only by participating in guided tours conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

Free guided tours to warbler nesting areas will depart from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grayling Field Office in Grayling, and from the U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Office in Mio. The tours will begin May 15 and end July 4. The Grayling tour will be offered daily at 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The Mio tour will be offered at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and at 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. No tours will be offered on Monday or Tuesday from Mio.

Actual sighting of the Kirtland's warbler is not guaranteed. The average date when the first Kirtland's warbler arrives at the nesting area is May 12; the latest recorded date of the first arrival is May 20. Thus, the chance of seeing the bird during the early guided tours is less than optimum. The best period for seeing the warbler is during late May and the month of June. The chance of viewing diminishes after July 1. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars or spotting scopes. The playing of recorded warbler singing will not be allowed, and special efforts will not be made for photographers.

Tour guides prefer small groups because they create less disturbance and are more likely to see the bird. No reservations are necessary for individuals or small groups, but large groups are urged to contact the following offices after April 15, 1985 for reservations so that time schedules can be established:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
c/o Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Grayling Field Office
P.O. Box 507
Grayling, Michigan 49738
Phone: (517) 348-6371

or
U.S. Forest Service
District Ranger
Huron National Forest
Mio, Michigan 48647
Phone: (517) 826-3252

Prior to April 15, answers to specific questions not covered above may be obtained from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildlife Assistance
310 Manly Miles Building
1405 South Harrison Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
Phone: (517) 337-6652