Bruce Radabaugh 1967

A nesting survey of the Kirtland's Warbler on the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area, Huron National Forest--1967.

Introduction

This is a report on field studies of the Kirtland's Warbler (Dendroica kirtlandii) on the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area, Huron National Forest, during the 1967 nesting season. Pertinent details on the physical layout of the study area are given in the 1964 report.

This season, as in the 1965 and 1966 seasons, Nicholas Cuthbert carried out a program of removal of the Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater) by trapping. He also carried out a similar program on his study area in Ogemaw County.

Reported here also are a few general data on Kirtland's Warbler field studies carried out by us on two control areas. One, used in the 1966 season also, is that portion of the 1946 burn west of Mack Lake. The other is the habitat resulting from a 1955 fire just southwest of Luzerne, Oscoda County.

We were very fortunate (and very pleased) to have Andrew J. Berger join us in the field during the period 19-23 June, inclusive. We thank Mr. J.K. Adams, of the Mio office, for expediting out entry onto the Management Area.

Census

There were 17 known males on the study area this season--down three from last year. Table 1 breaks down this count into the six sections of the study area and gives the figures for former years as well.

As in 1966, there were three males with two mates each on their territories this year (with only one male being so involved in both seasons). There were two other males with two females each on their territories, but our observations--limited as they may have been--indicated "matedness" to only one of the females in each of these cases. In any event, there were 22 known females on the study area--for a total of at least 39 adult Kirtland's Warblers.

Nests and parasitism

There were 29 nests found on the study area this year--four of these were abandoned during construction. In addition, fledglings provided evidence for two other nestings on the study area. The 31 total includes seven renests and three second nests and involves the 17 males and 21 of the females (one female--a color-banded return--was seen on several occasions but no nest was found).

Table 2 shows the distribution of these nests among the six sections of the study area; along with corresponding figures for former years.