

Bruce Rababaugh

This is a report on field studies on the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) on the Kirtland's Warbler Management Area (KWMA), Oscoda County, Michigan, during the 1968 season.

Field work was begun on 15 June and continued through 24 July. From 25 July to 3 August only a brief time was spent each day checking active nests. At the latter date the last nest fledged.

When work was begun a number of females were observed building nests. These were almost certainly renestings from former ones that had failed. Unfortunately, with this relatively late start of field work, we knew nothing of these earlier nests.

As in some past seasons Nicholas Cuthbert trapped Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) on the study area (study area-KWMA plus the habitat in Section 10). He also did some shooting of cowbirds.

Contained herein are also a few pertinent notes on work carried out on the habitat west of Mack Lake. Unfortunately we were unable to work the Luzerne habitat--for a control area--as we did in the 1966 and 1967 seasons.

The curtailment of the work load was necessary because of the death of my father, Floyd E. Rababaugh, earlier in the spring. The two of us have been carrying out field work on the Mack Lake habitat--with increasing intensity from season to season--since 1961. Needless to say, his presence was profoundly missed this season and whatever may come from this study is dedicated to his memory.

Again--as in all the past years of our study--we would like to thank Mr. J.K. Adams, of the Mic office, for his kind cooperation.

There were 22 males on the study area this season. This is up considerably from last year. Table 1 shows this over-all, and irregular, decline in this population since the 1961 census (at which time the population was probably at its peak). We have no ready, single answer as to why the number of males increased nearly 30% in this particular year. In addition we observed 28 females.

We located 27 nests on the study area. This figure includes eight renests. Of the 27 nests, two were abandoned during construction. of the 25 nests receiving eggs, ~~none (0%)~~ ^{nine (36.0%)} were parasitized by the cowbird.

during construction

Habitat west of Mack Lake--

There were seven males on this habitat this season. Five nests were found (including one re-nest), all of which were parasitized. Only three young fledged--a Kirtland's Warbler and a cowbird from one nest and a cowbird from another nest. There were two male and two female returns on this habitat this season. There was also one female observed bearing an aluminum band only. Interestingly, another female--banded last year as an adult on the west Mack Lake habitat--was found this season by Cuthbert on his Genesee County study area.

Table 1. Censuses: singing males (T25N, R3E).

Year	Section						Totals
	1	12	2	11	7	10	
1961		12		15		8	35
1964	1		7		10	4	22
1965	1		3		2	5	26
1966	1		3		3	4	20
1967	2		4		3	2	17
1968	2		4		3	3	22

Bruce E. and Clarice A. Radabaugh--August 16, 1968.

