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INTRODUCTION

The Kirland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirlandi*), a species of Wood Warbler (*Taraxilidae*), has a very restricted breeding range in the north-central portion of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. It migrates

REPORT ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE NORTHERN
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conservation of this species. In 1961 there were 502 singing males, in 1961 there were 502. A 1:1 sex ratio is assumed and, allowing for possible error, the estimated number of individuals was about 1,000 on the basis of these two censuses. In 1971 only 201 singing males were observed. This means a population of about 400 and a drastic decline of 60 per cent in the 10-year period between 1961 and 1971.

The principal factors have been put forth to explain this decline: the shortage of suitable habitat; and the activities of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), a parasite of the Kirland's Warbler as well as other host species.

Long before the 1971 results were in, the Kirland's Warbler was considered by most to be an endangered species because of its low numbers and its migratory status. Thus experimental work was already underway to lay the groundwork for dealing effectively with possible habitat shortage and losses caused by the cowbird.

For the first, habitat creation has been the main thrust with jack pine plantations and prescribed burns the main tools. For the second, a cowbird removal program has proved successful in increasing warbler fledgling production on areas covered by such trapping (Outhbert and Radabaugh, to be published soon).

In 1972 (i.e., as this report is being written) all the principal nesting areas will have been

