

# KW NOTES

## A Summary of Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Efforts

### Tour Information

Free guided tours to Kirtland's warbler nesting areas departed from the Holiday Inn in Grayling, and from the U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Office in Mio.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tours were offered from May 15 to July 4. The Holiday Inn in Grayling provided a meeting place for the tours. This year, 724 people from 38 states and 5 countries enjoyed the tour.

The U.S. Forest Service conducted tours May 13 to July 2 from Mio. Five hundred ninety-three people from 23 states and 4 countries had a chance to view a Kirtland's warbler.

Once again, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Natural Resources, and Holiday Inn cooperated in the production of 25,000 copies of a tour leaflet which were distributed at highway information centers.

### Information/Education

#### Second Annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival

The Second Annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival was held in Mio, Michigan June 15-18, 1995. New events added this year included a 5K and 10K race, and wildlife presentations on Kirtland's warblers, bears, and birds of prey. The public had an opportunity to take the Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour on county buses. Interpreters were on hand to explain the diversity found in the jack pine ecosystem. Children were invited to attend the presentation "Migration Headaches" and learn what warblers must face during their migration from Michigan to the Bahamas.

#### Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Ruffed Grouse Walk site, an interpretive stop on the Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour, took place during the Kirtland's Warbler Festival. The Ruffed Grouse Walk site was developed thanks to a large grant from The Ruffed Grouse Society and matching funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The site includes a 4,000 foot, handicapped accessible trail, cleared by prison workers, with five stops interpreting aspen management.

Interpretive signs have been completed on seven stops of the Tour, with the east loop nearing completion. Approximately \$45,000 have been raised to support the Tour. An additional \$45,000 is needed to complete the Tour.



## Information/Education (continued)



The Tour is being evaluated to determine how many people are using it, whether the intended messages are getting across, and its impacts on the local economy.

Tour brochures and maps are available at many businesses in Fairview, Mio, and Luzerne and also from Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Forest Service, and Chamber of Commerce for Oscoda County offices in Mio. A 12 minute slide-tape program explaining the cooperative development of the Tour is available from the Forest Service or DNR in Mio.

### Presentations

Jean Richter (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing) attended the Fourth Annual Watchable Wildlife Conference in Estes Park, Colorado, September 19-23. She helped facilitate a session entitled: *Influencing Conservation Behavior: Information is Not Enough!* Participants of this session formed six small groups; the Kirtland's warbler case study was presented to one of the groups. The group was asked to brainstorm a plan on how natural resource managers can motivate visitors and local residents to support conservation efforts for the warbler. Jean also staffed an exhibit table during the *Interact* session of the conference. Promotional material for the Kirtland's warbler (i.e. festival T-shirts, posters, invitations, mugs, candy jars, hand bags, post cards, booklets, etc.) were on display, thanks to Virgie Purchase of Mio who sent Jean a box of warbler souvenirs. Information on the Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour was also available. The material was to give participants an idea of the things being done in Michigan to help develop awareness and support for the Kirtland's warbler.

Mike DeCapita (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing) gave a presentation on Kirtland's warbler tourism projects to the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, Environmental Concerns Task Force on July 25 in Washington, D.C. The Conference is a government and industry group convened by the President to develop a comprehensive national tourism strategy. Environmental concerns was one of 9 broad categories considered by various task forces prior to a national meeting to be held October 30 - 31, 1995. Mike described the Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour, Kirtland's Warbler festival in Mio, and the regular Kirtland's warbler viewing tours, with particular mention of the Holiday Inn of Grayling involvement.

Bob Hess (DNR, Mio) and Connies Chaney (U.S. Forest Service, Mio) gave several warbler presentations, with emphasis on outreach successes. Presentations were given at a wildlife conference at Michigan State University, to the Missouri Department of Conservation, and to the Tennessee Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

**Information/Education  
(continued)**

**Singing Male Census**

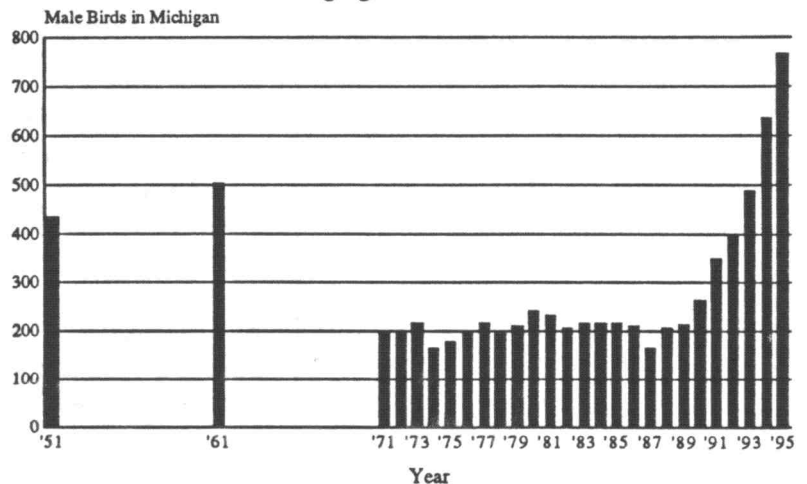
Department of Natural Resources wildlife personnel gave a presentation on Kirtland's warbler biology and management at the 4th Midwest Birding Symposium at Benton Harbor on September 16th. Over 850 individuals attended this event. The Symposium organizers donated \$500 to the Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour.

Michigan's population of the endangered Kirtland's warbler is the largest ever counted since the census began in 1951. Researchers, biologists, and volunteers counted 765 singing males during the official census completed in mid-June. The count represents a 21 percent increase over the record number of 633 singing males established in 1994. The numbers of singing males has increase every year since the record low count of 167 in 1987.

Ninety percent of the warblers were located in Oscoda, Ogemaw, and Crawford counties. Fifty-seven percent of the warblers were located in the areas specifically planted for nesting habitat. Birds were also located in Alcona, Clare, Iosco, Kalkaska, Montmorency, Otsego, and Roscommon counties. Eight singing males were found in four Upper Peninsula counties: Bargara, Delta, Marquette, and Schoolcraft. The eight singing males are the highest number counted in the Upper Peninsula since the first one was discovered there in 1981. Female warblers were also observed with two of these males; this may represent an expansion of the Kirtland's warbler into habitat in the Upper Peninsula.

Although a formal census was not conducted in Wisconsin this year, one male was reported in Jackson County. Singing males have been reported in Jackson County for the past nine years. No birds were found in Ontario; however one female was sighted at Point Pelee National Park during migration.

**Kirtland's Warblers in Michigan  
Singing Male Counts\***



\*No counts made 1952-60 and 1962-70

