

PROJECT POP CONE A SUCCESS

FOREST FIRE RAGES, BUT UNDER CONTROL

Mio, Michigan . . . Jackpine smoke billowed thousands of feet skyward from the hottest forest fire in recent Michigan history as Project Pop Cone came to a climax southeast of here, near Mack Lake. The mid-May fire in the 4,000-acre Kirtland's Warbler Management area of the Huron National Forest was purposely set to burn a mile-square area of jack pine slash in an area recently harvested by Packaging Corporation of America. The object: to create new nesting areas for one of the world's rarest songbirds, the half-ounce Kirtland's Warbler.

Called "Michigan's Biggest Pop Cone Party," the slash fire was set to generate new, low, jack pine growth necessary for survival of the warblers. Quick, intense heat tends to pop dormant jack pine cones, releasing a flood of seed. Without fire, it takes nature up to twenty years to do the job.

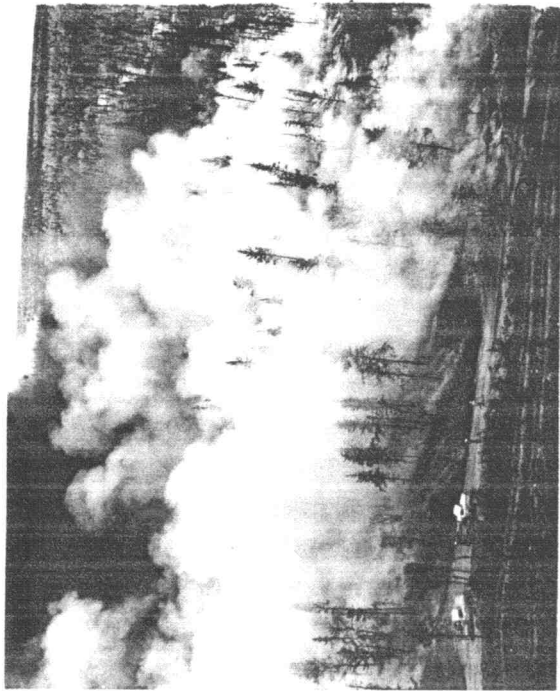
Only about 1,000 Kirtland's warblers exist, experts estimate. They nest primarily in the region of the Au Sabie River valley in Michigan. As forests mature,



Fire pops pine cones and releases these tiny seeds almost instantly.

their nesting habitat dwindles. Timber harvesting and regrowth of young jack pine cover, it is hoped, will save this wildlife oddity for future generations to admire.

Soon, a new green mantle of jack pine seedlings will cover the blackened ashes of the slash. Meanwhile, loggers are at work harvesting pulpwood from another area, preparing for another burn. Eventually, through harvest and controlled fire, a 4,000-acre warbler haven will be created.



Smoke and flame churn through the mile-square Kirtland's warbler burn near Mio. Trees seen through smoke are seed trees left when area was first logged under Packaging Corporation contract.

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Traditional foes unite to save bird

MIO, Mich. (AP) — It's enough to make a spotted owl green with envy: The timber industry, environmentalists and government regulators are working together to try to save an endangered bird called the Kirtland's warbler.

The same groups that have been at each other's throats over the habitat of the spotted owl have united to try to save the half-ounce, yellow-breasted warbler, also threatened by a shrinking habitat.

The endangered owl dwells in the Northwest's old-growth forests, where a three-year-old logging ban cost thousands of jobs. A federal judge lifted the ban Tuesday.

By contrast, the warbler lives near young trees, nesting in the thick underbrush beneath stands of jack pines just five to 15 years old.

"They're very picky," biologist David Case said.

The pines start dying when they reach 16 to 20 feet, but by that time, they've choked the undergrowth.

Historically, wildfires preserved warbler habitat by destroying older trees. Heat from the fire bursts the pine cones and scatters their seeds, giving birth to a new generation of trees.

But as more people moved into the area, they fought the fires, disrupting the cycle and shrinking

the bird's habitat.

As of last year, fewer than 1,000 of the warblers were known to exist — all within an eight-county area of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Now, state and federal agencies use controlled burns and clearcutting to restore the habitat. Private logging companies cut the timber.

"The reason the Endangered Species Act is working in Michigan is one simple word — partnerships," said Charles Wooley, Kirtland's project leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

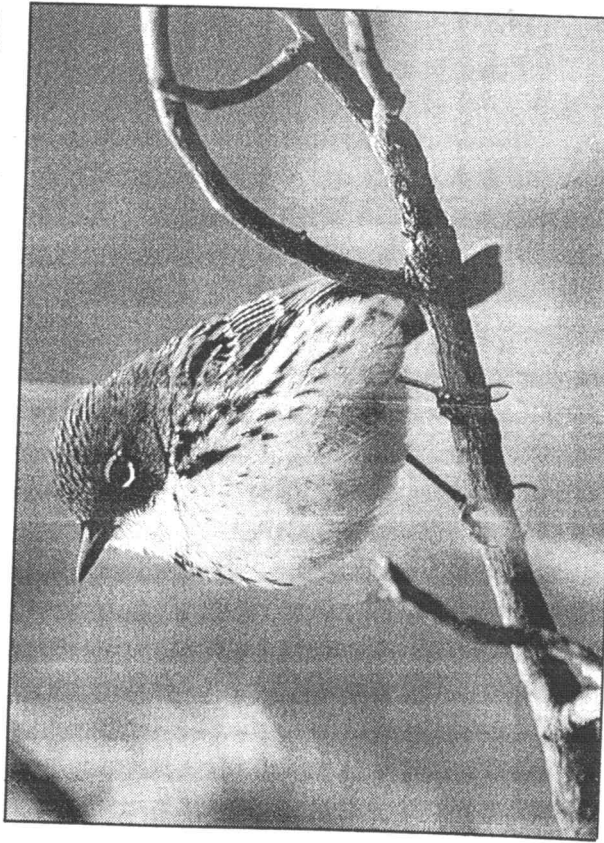
"It is nice not to have the kinds of problems they've got in the Pacific Northwest," said Paul Call, raw materials manager for Weyerhaeuser Co.'s mill in nearby Grayling.

Biologist Rex Ennis, of the U.S. Forest Service, was among several dozen biologists and volunteers who fanned out Friday for the last day of the annual Kirtland's census.

Cupping an ear, he strained to hear the warbler's melodious chirp. Hearing one, he noted the warbler's approximate location on a map, then resumed his trek.

Conservation groups such as the Michigan Audubon Society and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation help fund the census program.

Annual Kirtland's counts be-



AP photo

Endangered warbler has become the focus of a festival

gan in 1971, when a 10-year census showed a sharp drop in their numbers. In 1974, only 167 males were counted.

The 1993 census found 485 males, up 22 percent from the previous year. It will take several days to tally this year's figures.

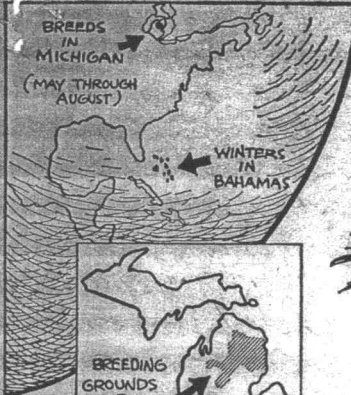
But scientists say the warbler will remain endangered until the population stabilizes at 1,000 or more pairs — which probably won't happen until well into the next century, if ever.

Meanwhile, the first Kirtland's

Warbler Festival, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, began Saturday and runs through June 19. The festival illustrates area residents' evolution from hostility to enthusiasm about the preservation effort, festival Chairman Vergie Purchase said.

"The more we understood this little bird and the economic impact it could have, we decided we'd better celebrate," said Purchase, owner of the nearby Songbird Motel. "It's a great way to promote tourism."

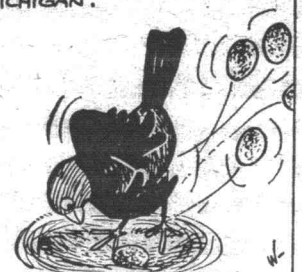
Some A...



KIRTLAND'S WARBLER-

ABOUT 1,000 BREEDING ADULTS MAKE UP THE WORLD'S POPULATION. THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN FOUND NESTING ANYWHERE ELSE BUT MICHIGAN.

YOUNG JACK PINES ARE THE PREFERRED HABITAT FOR NESTING. LOWER BRANCHES MUST MESH AND TOUCH THE GROUND. HEAVY PLANT GROWTH ON GROUND BEST FOR NEST.



A THREAT TO KIRTLAND'S WARBLER POPULATIONS IS THE COWBIRD WHO ARRANGES IT SO HER YOUNG ARE HATCHED AND RAISED INSTEAD.

MICH. DEPT. OF CONS.

minute speech, it shouldn't have to be reported.

■ A lawmaker can become a lobbyist right after leaving office — even if it results in legislators conducting official business while weighing job offers from interest groups.

■ Incumbent lawmakers should be able to paper their districts with taxpayer-funded mail four weeks out from a primary election.

'Complex' issues too tough to handle

No outright ban on gifts or meals is necessary. And there is no need for detailed reporting of who's giving and getting the gifts. Nor is the public entitled to know which lawmakers are most dependent upon lobbyists for their daily sustenance.

There is no mention of reducing the growing influence of special interest money in political campaigns, the constant fund raising in Lansing before and after session or the accumulation of hundreds of thousands of dollars in special interest cash in the hands of a few legislative leaders.

Oh, and there were some "complex" issues this panel on ethics just couldn't tackle right now. Stuff like financial disclosure and conflicts of interest.

"These are issues which should be addressed by the Legislature in the very near future," the report said. Sure.

The 1992 election certainly contained elements of protest from which some reform message should have been gleaned. The old House speaker was dumped from office and voters pulled the switch for term limits.

So if you think these folks are out to lunch, just imagine who's buying.

Members are expected to name an interim at the regular July 9 meeting.

Heart of Kirtland's country celebrates battle to save bird

► *The first Kirtland's Warbler Festival runs from Saturday through June 19.*

By John Fleisher
The Associated Press

MIO — Pushing past thick stands of jack pine on a cool, clear morning, biologist Rex Ennis suddenly halts. Cupping an ear, he strains to hear the melodious chirp of the endangered Kirtland's warbler.

"Thought I heard one," Ennis mutters. "But those brown thrashers make so much noise you can't ... Wait! There it is again!"

He notes the warbler's approximate location on a map, then resumes his trek through a rolling swath of the Huron National Forest. This is the heart of Kirtland's country, the last refuge on Earth for the half-ounce, yellow-breasted songbird.

As of last year, fewer than 1,000 were known to exist — all within an eight-county area of Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. They migrate to the Bahamas each winter.

Ennis, of the U.S. Forest Service, was among several dozen biologists and volunteers who fanned out Friday for the last day of the annual Kirtland's census.

It is part of a nearly 20-year effort to save the warbler — an effort that has united interests often at each other's throats: en-

vironmentalists, the timber industry and government regulators.

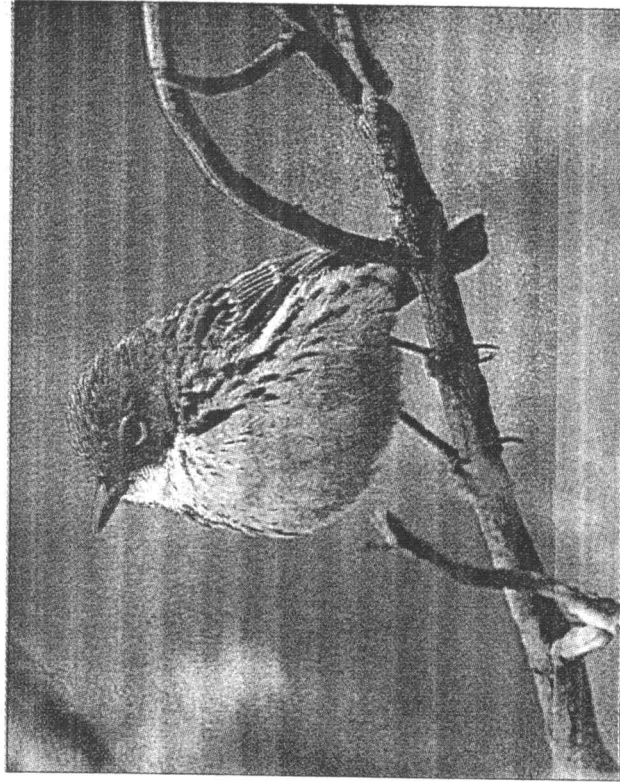
"It is nice not to have the kinds of problems they've got in the Pacific Northwest," said Paul Cali, raw materials manager for Weyerhaeuser Co.'s mill in nearby Grayling, which buys some of the pines harvested to bolster warbler habitat.

With Congress stalled on updating the federal Endangered Species Act, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt had planned a visit Friday to hail the Kirtland's program as proof the act can benefit the economy and environment. He canceled because of business elsewhere.

But a spokesman said Babbitt still hopes to attend the first Kirtland's Warbler Festival, which runs from Saturday through June 19. Sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, the festival illustrates residents' evolution from hostility to enthusiasm about the preservation effort, festival Chairwoman Vergie Purchase said.

"The more we understood this little bird and the economic impact it could have, we decided we'd better celebrate," said Mrs. Purchase, owner of the Songbird Motel. "It's a great way to promote tourism."

The Kirtland's warbler's biggest problem is loss of habitat, said Gary Boushelle, wildlife biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Another enemy: the brown-headed cowbird, which invades Kirtland's warbler nests. Scientists are trapping and relocating the cowbirds.



AP PHOTO

Saving the Kirtland's warbler: The cheery half-ounce, yellow-breasted songbird feels at home in the northeastern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Michigan Pulling Out All Stops To Save Kirtland's Warblers

K.W.
file

Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife officials, alarmed over the drop of nearly 60 percent in the world's population of Kirtland's warblers since 1961, are urging that all stops be "pulled out" to save the popular little songbirds which nest exclusively in the east-central part of northern Lower Michigan.

MDNR plans call for meeting soon with U.S. Forest Service leaders and Michigan Audubon Society representatives to map out a coordinated program of action which will, among other things, rally stepped-up efforts to provide maximum nesting cover for the birds in that part of the state.

Spurring the MDNR's concern are results of a census conducted last June which shows that Kirtland's warbler numbers have dropped to only about 400 birds since the last such survey was made 10 years ago in their summer homeland of northern Lower Michigan.

The dramatic decline came as particularly bad news to DNR wildlife leaders and other interested parties because they have made a special effort in recent years to preserve and improve the birds' nesting niche in this state.

In 1958, the MDNR, with cooperation of the Michigan Audubon Society, set aside three separate tracts of state-owned jackpine lands in Crawford, Oscoda, and Ogemaw counties where management work has been keyed first and foremost for the benefit of Kirtland's warblers.

Along those same lines, the Forest Service in 1963 dedicated

growth in the last 10 years."

Byelich believes the main thrust to help Kirtland's warblers should center on a more massive program of habitat work to promote the regeneration of young jackpine.

Cowbirds may have cut into Kirtland's warblers numbers since 1961. "We will work with the Forest Service, Audubon Society, and other interested groups to explore these and other factors which may have hurt the birds so much."

The latest Kirtland's warbler survey covered the birds' nesting grounds in an area from Ogemaw County north to Presque Isle County and from Lake Huron west to Kalkaska County. The birds' population totaled 1,000 in that part of the state when the last census was run in 1961.

At that time, the birds were found in 86 square-mile sections of 10 counties. Last June, they were located in only 27 sections of these six counties: Crawford, Iosco, Montmerency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Otsego.

The Kirtland's warbler, sometimes called the jackpine warbler, migrates to the Bahama Islands in September and October for the winter and returns to Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula in April and early May for nesting.

Who's Got The Bag?

To many sportsmen the mention of a snipe hunt produces a wary look that says, "Don't try that old gag on me!" They hark back to the timeworn practical joke that twelve year olds play on their fathers in which the "father"



ENDANGERED BIRD — The Kirtland's Warbler, a bird that nests only in Michigan, is being helped to survive by man. The bird's greatest two threats are the declining stands of young jack pine and the cowbird, which leaves its eggs in the warbler's nest. The cowbird young can kill the newborn warblers. (AP Wirephoto)

He Has a Friend in Man

Kirtland's Warbler Saved?

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The tiny, yellow-bellied Kirtland's warbler — which in the U.S. nests only in Michigan — has found man a friend in the bird's battle for survival against too many cowbirds and not enough young jack pine.

The creature appears on the comeback trail.

But how much won't be known until later this spring when the world's entire population flies to northern Lower Michigan after a winter's rest in the Bahamas. They arrive usually between April 27 and May 9.

Only about 200 pairs of the birds were counted last year in their nesting grounds in Oscoda, Crawford and Ogemaw counties. A decade earlier, 500 pairs were observed.

The bird, which has a curious four-note song and weighs 14 grams as an adult, had roamed over a larger area of northern Michigan in the past, but currently breeds only in the three counties.

It builds its nest on the ground underneath young jack pine, whose lower limbs hover near the ground.

However, due largely to good forest management practices and lack of forest fires, there have been fewer and fewer large stands of young jack pine.

John Byelich, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources' expert on wildlife habitats, said when jack pine mature, the trees lose their lower limbs and the birds

no longer nest under them.

He said the state and the U.S. Forest Service have launched a program over the past decade to improve the habitat for the warbler. It deals with removing some of the old jack pine and replanting it with young trees.

"Some of the areas where he habitat has been improved are now supporting warblers," he said.

About 240 acres of state land have been improved.

"The U.S. Forest Service already has cut over and burned over several units of warbler habitat and now are in the process of regenerating a new jack pine stand," he said, explaining about 600 to 800 acres are involved.

The other major problem facing the Kirtland's warbler, which has a blue-black back and feasts on insects, is the fact that the larger cowbirds leave their eggs in other birds' nests to hatch.

Since the cowbird young grow larger and faster than the newborn Kirtland's warblers, they monopolize the food and even kill their nestmates.

Byelich said more than 2,000 cowbirds were caught in special traps in the Kirtland's Warbler breeding area last year in a program undertaken by wildlife officials.

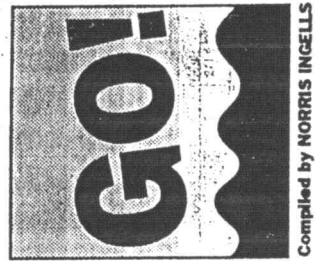
He said the program appeared successful, noting that only two cowbird eggs were found later in 32 Kirtland's warbler nests which were inspected.

Similar trapping programs will be undertaken this year.

The Kirtland's warbler, named in 1851 when one bird was found near Kirtland's farm in Ohio near Lake Erie, remains an endangered species. But Byelich said, the signs are hopeful for the first time in years the bird will survive.

This little bird's a big draw in Mio

Kirtland's Warbler brings in bird lovers worldwide



Compiled by **NORRIS INGELLS**

Down-state folks — that's us — may find it surprising that Michigan is visited every year by hundreds of people from distant cities and even foreign countries who don't give a dang about automobiles, snowmobiles, pleasure boats, deer hunting, salmon fishing or the latest intrigue in the MSU Athletic Department.

And they aren't heading for famous places like Mackinac Island or Greenfield Village either. Their destination is Mio, a tiny town about 32 miles east of Grayling in North-Central Michigan's Oscoda County.

What's the attraction? "A rare and endangered little blue-gray and yellow bird called Kirtland's Warbler. Adding it to your 'life list' of species spotted is considered a must by serious birdwatchers.

Despite a very strong, human-aided comeback in recent years, only 485 singing males were counted last year. It's assumed there's one female for each male counted, so the entire world population is probably less than 1,000.

"One lady came in from Denver, Colorado, and went away very, very happy," said Diane Szabo, who runs the Songbird Motel in Mio. "Not only did she see the Kirtland's Warbler, but she also saw a pileated woodpecker. There are a lot of interesting birds in our area.

New this year will be Mio's first Kirtland's Warbler Festival, June 10-19. It's being tied in with the town's 50-year-old Iris Show.

There'll be tours of famous flower gardens in the county, a kids' fishing derby, mountain bike and foot races, juried wildlife arts and crafts show, an Au Sable River float and a parade. And, of course, they'll offer daily U.S. Forest Service expeditions into the pine barrens to try to catch a glimpse of the



Kirtland's Warbler is a small bird that attracts big attention in North-Central Michigan. This year they're even holding a festival in its honor.

May 15 through July 4 there are also daily 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tours operating out of the Holiday Inn in Grayling. The inn has a special package deal for birders; \$84 for two people, which includes overnight lodging and breakfast. For reservations or more information, call 1-800-292-9055.

For data on the festival, Iris Show and tours, call the Oscoda County Chamber of Commerce at (800) 800-6133. They'll send you a free schedule of events. Information is also available at Michigan Department of Natural Resources offices.

love it. And the little darlings might even learn something in the process.

It involves teaching children about springs during — you guessed it — spring break to cure their — you guessed it again — spring fever.

"Springs, kind of like children, are all about energy — storing it, releasing it and absorbing it," said Mary Lynn Heininger, developer of the program. "We'll offer hands-on, minds-on, and even feel-on activities to inspire kids' natural curiosity so that they can discover the fascination of springs."

It all takes place April 2-10. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. There's no extra charge beyond the usual museum admission: adults \$11.50; children 5-12, \$5.75. Children under 5, free. Museum and village are located at Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road in Dearborn just west of the Southfield Freeway (M-39). For recorded information on programs call (313) 271-1976.

Michigan's state park system is 75 years old this year, and to help you enjoy the birthday party, they've published a new guidebook. It's free, and all you have to do to get one is call 373-9900. They're also available at DNR offices, and tourist information centers — in Lansing, in the 100 block of West Kalamazoo St. by Pepsi-Cola of Michigan; in facilities available; phone numbers, and fees.

Speaking of birthdays, William Penn — the man Pennsylvania is named after — would be 350 years old this year. Naturally, there'll be a lot of hoopla associated with this milestone — tours, exhibits, fairs.

If you're interested, write the Philadelphia Visitors Center, 16th St. and JFK Blvd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. They'll send you a complete listing.

Norris Ingells is a Lansing State Journal staff writer. Questions? Suggestions? Give him a call at 377-1155.

are available in each, and a list of tourist information centers around the state.

Symbols tell you which events charge admission, and which are wheelchair accessible.

Be advised that many small town tourist bureaus aren't staffed this early in the season, so don't be surprised if you get a recording or nobody answers. Wait a few days and try again.

The usually dignified Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn has come up with an idea that sounds like Madison Avenue at its corniest.

But it's a great idea. Kids will

The Michigan Summer 1994 Travel Guide and Calendar of Events is out, free, and available at the Michigan Travel Bureau office in the 100 block of West Kalamazoo Street, across from the Lansing Library.

If you want one mailed to you, write: Michigan Travel Bureau, P.O. Box 3393, Livonia 48151-3393 or call 1-800-5432-YES.

It covers more than 1,000 events all over the state from April through Labor Day weekend, including dates and phone numbers you can call for additional information. There are charts showing all state parks and what facilities

Courtesy photo.



Razing forests helps wildlife; rankled neighbors don't like it

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAYLING — Government officials say birds, deer and other wildlife benefit when large stretches of forest are periodically razed.

But in northern and central Lower Michigan, some residents are questioning the policy of clearing away the trees they want to live among.

The state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture allow clearcutting — razing all trees in an area at one time — to let mature stands of aspen, jack pine or black or pin oak reach adult size.

Aspen and jack pine can't grow properly in the shade of other trees.

In Crawford, Oscoda, Roscommon and Ogemaw counties, 5- to 15-year-old jack pines shelter the Kirtland warbler, an endangered bird that nests only in Michigan. Wildlife officials regularly clearcut on a 143,000-acre area across 10 Lower

Peninsula counties to help the warbler.

But William Stenglein of Lovells says clearcutting has left his native Crawford County "the raggiest part of Michigan."

"In terms of natural environment, it's a ghetto," he said. "It's a slum."

"I got mad about three or four years ago. I looked at all the tall forests being cut out and all this jack pine going in. I've seen a complete attack on biodiversity."

The clearcutting of state forests has intensified the past 10 years because many trees are maturing about the same time, state officials said. The trees started to regenerate in the early 1900s after several large fires and the end of extensive logging.

William Mittig is a DNR forest manager who oversees 750,000 acres of state-owned forest in Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Iosco, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Midland, Isabella and Bay counties. Each year, he said, the DNR allows 9,000 acres in the state forest

to be clearcut.

The Kirtland's warbler had ample habitat before man settled northern Lower Michigan because fires allowed younger jack pines to grow, said Philip Huber, a wildlife biologist for the Agriculture Department's Forest Service.

Firefighters have become better at controlling fires in recent decades, Huber said. That requires more clearcutting of large tracts of jack pines to provide homes for the warblers, he said.

White-tail deer feed on jack pine stands, and the trees assist the growth of grass, another deer food. Jack pine stands also provide habitat for the upland sandpiper, bluebirds, kestrels and snowshoe hares.

But Wayne Mack of Sterling said clearcutting has ravaged too much state forest, including the Au Sable State Forest in Arenac County.

"What shook me up real bad was that the place I used to hunt . . . lost all its trees, all my hunting land had been cut down," said Mack, 75.

Saginaw urged to enforce curfew for minors

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAGINAW — Albertina Hairston Jones used to worry about her kids graduating from high school. Now she worries about them living long enough to do it.

Jones, the founder of Mothers Against Young Guns and Homicide, is asking the Saginaw City Council to enforce the city's 10 p.m. curfew for minors. Regardless of whether her request is granted, Jones' three chil-

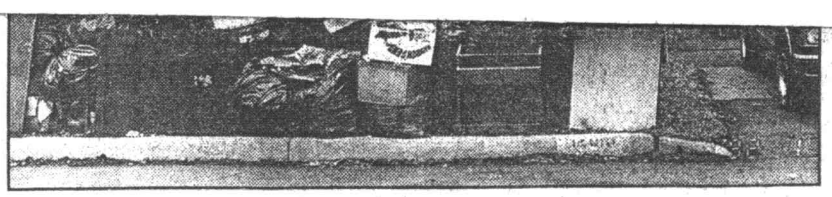
A curfew allows Jones' family to spend more time together watching television, listening to the radio or playing games. She said it also keeps her children from becoming homicide statistics.

One of Jones' children is already a statistic. Her son, Demontae Hairston, was 17 when he was killed in January 1992 outside the Bridgeport Roller Skating Rink. Rayshon D. Moultrie, 19, is serving a 52-year prison sentence for the murder.

Omarr Phillips, 14, are accustomed to their curfew. It's been in effect for more than a year, and it's not negotiable.

Jones plans to ask the City Council on Monday to enforce its curfew for residents under the age of 18. Jones said it needs to be enforced because of Saginaw's gang problem, which is one of the worst in Michigan.

Two Saginaw teens were shot to death this week in two separate



Razing forests helps wildlife; rankled neighbors don't like it

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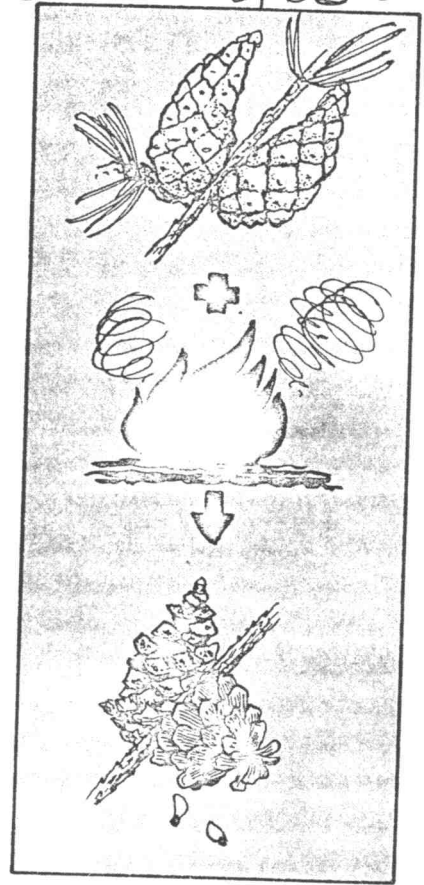
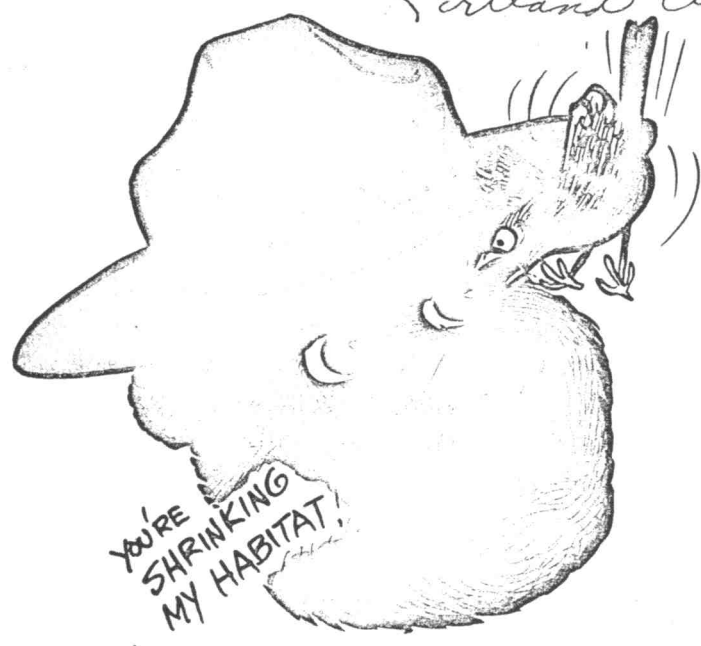
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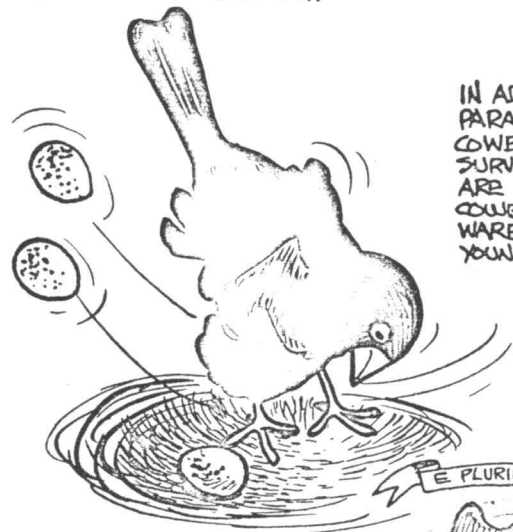


KIRTLANDS WARBLERS PREFER YOUNG JACK PINE STANDS. MODERN FOREST FIRE CONTROL HAS ALLOWED THE TREES TO MATURE AND HAS PREVENTED THE CREATION OF NEW AREAS. HOWEVER, IN A SPECIAL AREA SET ASIDE FOR WARBLER MANAGEMENT, CONTROLLED FIRE IS ONE TOOL USED TO MAINTAIN KIRTLANDS HABITAT.

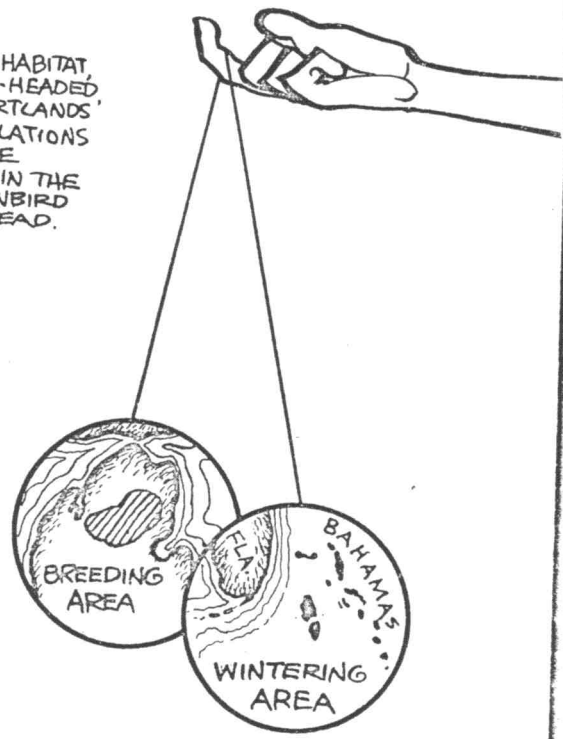
FIRE IS IMPORTANT TO THE JACK PINE RANGE MANAGEMENT. HIGH HEAT IS NEEDED TO OPEN UP CONES SO SEEDS MAY BE RELEASED; IT REMOVES PLANT COMPETITORS; AND CREATES A BED OF ASH IDEAL FOR SEED GERMINATION.



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YEAR
MAS.



IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS OF HABITAT, PARASITISM BY THE BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD ADDS TO THE KIRTLANDS' SURVIVAL PROBLEMS. POPULATIONS ARE REDUCED WHEN THE COWBIRD LAYS ITS EGGS IN THE WARBLER NESTS AND COWBIRD YOUNG ARE REARED INSTEAD.



THE KIRTLANDS WARBLER IS THE ONLY BIRD SPECIES NESTING ENTIRELY WITHIN THE BORDERS OF MICHIGAN. FOR THIS REASON, SOME PROPOSE THAT IT SHOULD BECOME THE STATE BIRD.



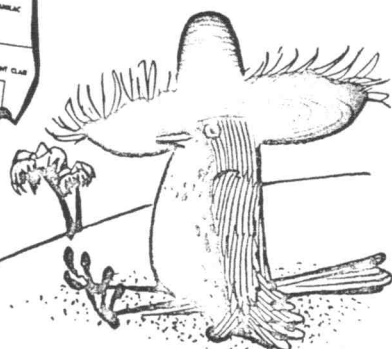
MAN HOLDS THE SLENDER ECOLOGICAL THREADS SUPPORTING THE KIRTLANDS' PRIMARY HABITATS. IF THERE IS ENOUGH CONCERN FOR THEIR SURVIVAL, THE THREADS WILL NEVER BE SEVERED.

WARBACH

UNDERSTANDING THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER



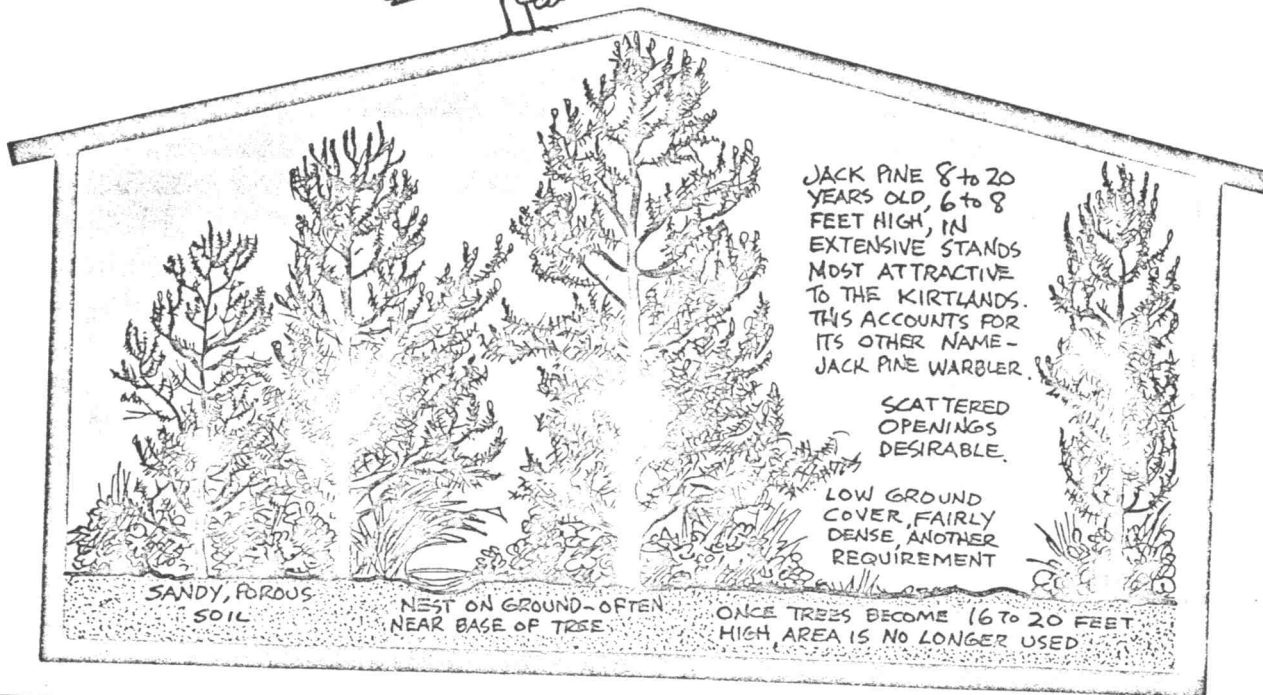
MICHIGAN IS HOME TO THE WORLD'S SUPPLY OF KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER. THE AREAS INDICATED ARE THE PRESENT NESTING SITES.



EXCEPT FOR THE TIME SPENT MIGRATING THIS WARBLER SPENDS THE REST OF THE YEAR IN THE BAHAMAS.



MY IDEAL NESTING HOME!



JACK PINE 8 TO 20 YEARS OLD, 6 TO 8 FEET HIGH, IN EXTENSIVE STANDS MOST ATTRACTIVE TO THE KIRTLANDS. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR ITS OTHER NAME - JACK PINE WARBLER.

SCATTERED OPENINGS DESIRABLE.

LOW GROUND COVER, FAIRLY DENSE, ANOTHER REQUIREMENT

SANDY, POROUS SOIL

NEST ON GROUND - OFTEN NEAR BASE OF TREE

ONCE TREES BECOME 16 TO 20 FEET HIGH AREA IS NO LONGER USED

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER



THIS IS THE NEST THE FOR PROF BIRD

of the Iosco County Democratic
 r, county chairman, announced
 ing will be held at 7 p.m. in the
 uilding.

 Encouragement works
 ch better than correction.

hout It!



Participate in the countywide con-
 solidated dispatch operation.

According to Stalker, the township
 could achieve potentially significant cost
 savings under this alternative since it
 would no longer have to provide its own
 dispatch system. The drawbacks, he ana-
 lyzed, would be the elimination of the
 24-hour police station walk-in service
 and the displacement of the police/fire
 dispatchers.

• Continue to operate the existing dis-
 patch center and purchase equipment to
 function as a secondary public safety an-
 swering point.

This option, according to Stalker,
 would provide for the continued opera-
 tion of the township dispatch center with
 enhanced 911 capability, but would re-
 quire a significant capital outlay for
 equipment acquisition. This would be in
 addition to the current dispatch costs.

• Continue current dispatch operation
 with "voice only" 911 answering
 equipment.

This differs from an enhanced system
 in that the dispatcher would not have
 computer equipment to identify the loca-
 tion of the caller or the capability
 access background information on the
 address. Stalker notes this option would
 allow for continued operation of the ex-
 isting dispatch center without expensive
 capital outlay. But, he advised, this
 would provide limited benefit to resi-
 dents in relation to the telephone sur-
 charge they would pay.

Presently the Oscoda dispatch center

ing bonds and interest costs.
 As proposed, only potentially benefit-
 ing commercial properties would be
 assessed.

Assessments would be based on a
 formula which considers both front foot-
 age and the number of parking spaces re-
 quired by zoning ordinance for the
 specific business types. Those businesses
 which provide parking spots outside the
 public parking district would be credited
 as part of the computation. The individ-
 ual totals would be tentatively capped at
 \$500 per year.

District boundaries would change
 slightly, adding a few properties which
 have converted to commercial use since
 the original district was established.

Tonight's hearing is not required. If
 the project moves forward the township
 board of trustees will be mandated to
 hold two additional public hearings —
 one to determine the need for the new
 district and the planned acquisition of

Having lived in Oscoda for the past
 17 years, I feel the need to say how
 thankful I am to have chosen this area to
 live in.

The parade and participants were out-
 standing! The planning by the Coordina-
 tor Dave Olpere is definitely to be
 commended. It must have been a truly
 difficult task!

It was the very best parade that I have
 ever seen and I am sure that visitors and
 residents alike will agree.

Many thanks to you Dave and
 participants!

Dorothea Gavron

Editor:
 Old Glory is gone, and this maple
 leaf, was not forever.

Last Thursday or Friday night the
 American and Canadian flags were sto-
 len from my 18 foot flag pole.

This was a daring adventure since the
 pole stands close to my house and is
 about 50 feet up the driveway from the
 road.

I am saddened at the fact that anyone
 would stoop to stealing flags. But this
 seems to be the sign of the times.

The American flag was given to me
 as a gift from a young Air Force couple
 upon their departure from Wurtsmith
 AFB.

The Canadian flag is not only expen-
 sive but difficult for me to replace.

I would appreciate having my prop-
 erty returned (no questions asked).

This has been a peaceful community
 for the 15 years I have resided here. I
 hope it will continue to be so in the
 future.

H. Victoria Wightman

Letters to the Editor



Editor:

For thousands of years before the
 peoples of Europe entered this land, my
 ancestors lived and hunted on the North
 American Continent. They lived in har-
 mony with nature and with respect for
 the land given to them by God; He who
 created all that is in existence.

There are now signs placed along
 Bissonette Road between the 10 Mile
 per Hour Curve to M-65, that it is illegal
 to walk in the woods, and that our pres-
 ence there will result in prosecution to
 any person or persons who would defy
 the signs and enter into the woods, be-
 cause of the necessity of protecting the
 Kirkland Warbler.

Moreover, on the south side of Bis-
 sonette Road, approximately four or five
 miles from our residence, the forest is
 being cut down by some logging com-
 pany's large equipment. The clear-
 cutting is only three-fifths of one mile
 from one of the above mentioned signs.

If any person who is on foot and tres-
 passing on that sacred ground is going to
 disturb the Kirkland Warbler, then how
 much more disturbing to the Kirkland
 Warbler is the presence of the trucks and
 logging equipment?

I must say that I resent some bureau-

(Next page)

Weather

Week of July 3-9, 1994

	East Tawas		Prec.
	Hi	Lo	
Sunday	73	51	0
Monday	78	66	.32
Tuesday	86	67	.17
Wednesday	84	64	.83
Thursday	81	67	.93
Friday	82	66	.28
Saturday	82	54	0

EXTENDED FORECAST

For Thursday, July 14 through Sat-
 urday, July 16 calls for a chance of thun-
 derstorms on Thursday, dry conditions
 on Friday and a chance of thunderstorms
 on Saturday. High temperatures are to
 run in the 70s throughout the period.
 Low temperatures are to run in the 50s
 each day.

Write Us:

The Oscoda Press welcomes
 letters from readers. Each letter
 must be an original copy and
 include the writer's signature,
 address and home or office
 telephone number. Letters
 should be concise, addressing
 an issue of local concern. The
 Press reserves the right to edit in
 keeping with legal and ethical
 standards. Address letters to

Oscoda Press
 P. O. Box 663
 Oscoda, Michigan 48750

R.R.No. _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 \$15 In State \$18 Out State \$20

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in November would
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of a special election
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dispatch operations
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52,700.

natter, Stalker advised
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with it, there will be fur-
t that time."

ats meeting
TY - Completing plans
upon the AuSable River

OSCODA PRESS
ESTABLISHED 1879

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Oscoda learns dispatch options should 911 pass

OSCODA - Oscoda Township Board of Trustees were advised Monday of its options should voters pass a county-wide surcharge for a 911 system next month.

The request was put on the ballot by the Iosco County Board of Commissioners over the objections of several townships and cities. Leaders of the local units, all of whom voiced support for an enhanced 911 system, indicated a number of issues should be addressed in advance of a vote.

Cost of the system to cities and townships which provide police and fire departments is one of the issues; impact on locally operated dispatch centers another.

Several meetings have been held between county and local officials since the protest.

Representing Oscoda Township at the sessions has been its superintendent, Robert Stalker.

"The issue is of significance to Oscoda Township from both financial and service provisions perspectives," Stalker stated.

According to Stalker, the county intends to appoint a central dispatch authority board and an advisory board to respectively make policy and govern dispatch operations. "Until that board is appointed and basic decisions made regarding policy issues, a number of important questions will not be addressed."

He listed the township's three basic options should voters pass the question, including establishment of a consolidated

handles emergency calls for police and fire, also issues burning permits, registers guns and provides similar services. The township employs three full-time and an equal number of part-time personnel to operate the center.

The operation is funded by Oscoda and AuSable Townships, through contributions from general revenues.

Under the county proposal, each recipient of telephone services would pay a 16 percent surcharge on the highest monthly base phone rate for the area for five years. At the current telephone rates, the surcharge would be \$2.09 per month.

The funds would be used for an enhanced 911 system, plus a central dispatch. Typically, a central dispatch is a center from which all emergency service providers for a given geographical area are dispatched.

It has not yet been determined where such an operation would be located but the lead county official in the effort to establish 911, Katherine Sias, has named the Iosco County Sheriff Department as the likely host.

Hearing

Continued From Page 1

Differing from the past district, the building authority proposes using future revenues to purchase the leased parking lots. By doing so, this would be the last such special assessment district needed - unless expansion is proposed at some point in the future.

Township officials estimate about \$400,000 will be needed to accomplish

crat from Washington, D.C. or Lansing telling me that I am no longer able to enjoy the heritage of my people, but the logging interests are able to go into that same forest and cut down a large area of the trees. Somehow, those pompous bureaucrats have everything mixed up and they are not held accountable to anyone. I did not elect them to an office of forestry protection, nor did I give up my Constitutional rights to these bureaucrats.

People, I appeal to you to let your state and federal representatives know that you resent this intrusion upon your freedom to walk and enjoy our forests, while allowing Foreign owned logging companies the freedoms that we cannot enjoy.

Editor:

I was in Oscoda a couple of weeks ago for a short vacation. It was nice to be home again!

My wife Holly and I, like many others, were relocated by the Air Force when Wurtsmith closed last year. We did not sell our home and will, as soon as we can, retire and return. I'm sure there are many like us who plan to return. That is the reason for this letter.

While in Oscoda, I went to the Township Hall to see if our water bills had been paid by our tenants. You can imagine our surprise when we discovered that not only had they not been paid for the past year but no effort had been made by the Water Department to collect from the occupants! Instead, the amount owed was added to MY account! The amount owed was in excess of \$450. The folks at the Water Department were extremely polite, but they said that until they get the right software for the computer system, there wasn't much they could do.

I know there must be people like me who have temporarily left the area who own and rent out their homes. There may even be those that are overseas and won't get the chance to visit Oscoda for several years. Imagine coming back after several years and finding a water bill of several thousand dollars waiting for them!

Hopefully, these folks subscribe to the Press and can be alerted to this problem.

Thanks for your assistance.

Jim Williams

Editor: The Press and Journal, P.O. Box 100, Oscoda, Michigan 48750

Archer Complex

CLEAR-CUT FOR BIRDS -- The U.S. Forest Service said this 300 acre clear-cut along Bissonette Road in western Oscoda Township is being clear-cut in order to encourage the growth of jack pine -- considered as nesting habitat for the endangered

Kirtland's warbler. Some area residents are not happy about the cutting of the forest or the planned regeneration to the fire volatile pine. They also question the proximity of the logging activity to a warbler closure area. -- NHP PHOTO

Forest closure for bird protection nets criticism

OSCODA -- Recent closure of land in western Oscoda Township and the clear-cutting of adjacent U.S. Forest Service (USFS) property has drawn the ire of some area residents and visitors.

According to U.S. Forest Service Tawas/Harrisville District Ranger Charles Andrina, both the cutting and the closure are part of the agency's efforts to protect the endangered Kirtland's warbler.

Approximately 80 acres along Bissonette Road, just west and east of McArdle, has been posted as closed. The area involves about a half mile of frontage on either side of the road.

This action was taken after survey found a number of the warblers in the jack pine stands of the area, according to Andrina. The ranger said, as a practice, only warbler-occupied areas of the forest are closed to public use.

No additional closures are anticipated this year, Andrina noted, but next year the zone could be extended further along the south side of Bissonette, due to a warbler sighting.

The land is closed to any entry between May 1 and Aug. 15. This includes pedestrian use.

The measures were taken within the portion of the Huron National Forest known as the Pine River Opportunity Area -- a 27,851 acre management zone of which 13,800 acres are designated in long range plans for warbler management.

Kirtland's warblers seek young stands of jack pine and annually migrate to northern lower Michigan to find such habitat. The rest of the year they live in the Caribbean.

This preferred habitat is the reason for the logging being done about 1,000 feet west of the closure zone, Andrina said.

Known as the Chambers West sale, the forest service awarded the logging contract to Payless Ag Products of Lake City. It calls for the clear-cutting of 311 acres specifically for warbler management, plus 41 acres for red pine and a 17 acre site where jack pine is being cut out. Such forest management practices concern many local residents, who

cause of the aesthetics, also the forest fire danger inherent with jack pine growths.

Andrina acknowledged both complaints, noting the Chambers West sale is not a clear-cut in the full sense of the term, with a few mature trees left standing. This reduces the visual impact of the cut. As for the fire danger, the forest service has attempted to create quarter mile hardwood buffer zones around the management area.

Nearby resident Ron Sims enjoys walking in the forest and, finds the closure ridiculous. "If by my walking in the forest disturbs the bird, what is all that logging equipment doing?"

"I have older neighbors who need firewood but aren't allowed to go into the forest and get it. But they'll sell to big companies who tear up the woods with heavy equipment."

Sims alleges the management practices have more to do with the money the forest service gets from logging contracts, than for resource management.

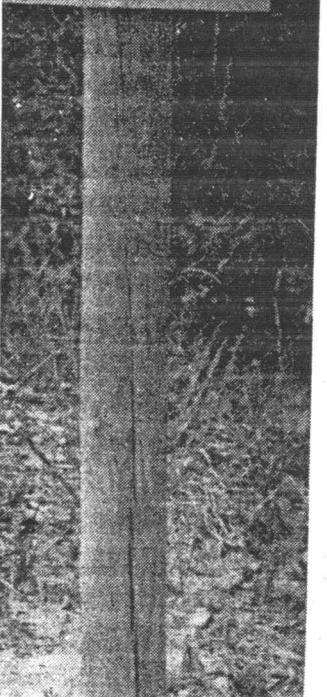
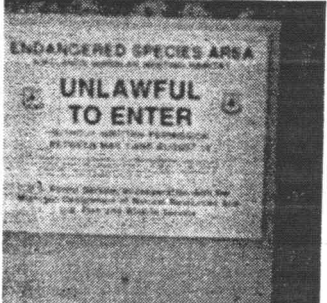
"The Forest Service doesn't listen to the people in the local area. Nor do they care about the people in the local area," Sims claims.

Sims and others point out that the warblers do not seem to be as fearful of humans as the resource agencies believe. When the warblers settle in the area, they say, it is during times when the forest is open to use.

"Many people pick blueberries in that area. I'm sure they are not there to harm the birds," he added. "It seems to me the forest service would be more concerned about the natural predators running around -- the coyotes, skunks, wildcats and raccoons... It's just not logical."

An effort was made to discuss the Kirtland's warbler habits and needs with the forest service biologist in charge of the warbler management. He could not be reached.

Andrina noted that, as part of the Pine River Opportunity Area plan development, the public was notified of the warbler management plans. Additionally, all area units of government were sent notices of the Chambers West logging sale for input. No comment was received



ROAD CLOSED -- About 80 feet of the Huron National Forest along Bissonette Road, has been closed for Kirtland's warbler protection after a number of the endangered birds were sighted -- NHP PHOTO

100-pound bass MBAA tourney Vixom Lake

OSCODA -- A single bass weighing 100 pounds helped Craig Delaney of Vixom win more than \$250 in cash in Sunday's Military Bass Association (MBAA) tournament. He caught him three fish weighing a total of 29 pounds for \$137 first-prize money.

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739-

Dr. Timothy Burg and the staff of the Tawas Animal Hospital are pleased to announce the re-opening of our Oscoda office and the addition of Dr. Rhoda Clark to our staff.

The Oscoda Veterinary will re-open for outpatient services 739-8278 or 362-4601

We would like to thank you for your understanding and cooperation in suspending our services to the public.

Tawas Animal Hospital 1627 M-55, Tawas City

OUTDOORS



losco
Outdoors
with Berkeley
"Berk" Smith

Fee Alert

An article elsewhere in this edition calls attention to an independent audit of Department of Natural Resources fish and game funds which showed that these funds are not being diverted to environmental activities by the department.

The fish and game fund is the only "earmarked" fund in state finances, deriving its money from sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

Reading between the lines of that same article, you can look for a hike in license fees in the not-to-distant future. A modest hike (who can define modest) may be alright, especially since the money goes back into the sports.

There are those who may be troubled by the finding that hunting income may have been spent, at least to a small part, in fishing projects. At the same time,

there are more people who fish than hunt, and fishing remains a mainstay of the state's major industry - tourism.

All one has to do to see what impact good and bad fishing has on that economy is look around losco County.

Fishing, overall, has been from poor to very poor and area boating facilities are now far from full. That's a long way from the days when it was almost necessary to secure dockage before buying a boat. When fishing was best, dock space was at a real premium.

Quiet time ends

Hunting dog owners and handlers will be allowed to return to the woods and fields Friday to begin getting the dogs and maybe themselves in shape for the coming seasons.

The period from April 15 to July 15 is closed to dogs in the woods to protect

the wildlife young.

Temperatures the past couple days could be about right to get started the dual-conditioning. From the actions of Tag, yours truly's Brittany, he is in far better shape than the hunter.

Going too far???

Objections to closing of more land in losco County and probably elsewhere to protect nesting sites of the Kirtland's warbler just may be going too far.

Read in the recent edition of *The Jackpine Warbler*, periodical of the Michigan Audubon Society, that a pair of the rare songbirds were seen or heard on Pelee Island, I located in Lake Eric.

It is true, too, that the bird, which is becoming less and less rare, has extended its nesting areas in Michigan.

In the efforts to make sure the bird increase in numbers, even pedestrian traffic is banned in nesting areas from May through August. That may have been fine when the range was limited and numbers really small.

But, each year, reports have come in that the number of nesting pairs is increasing. Not unlike the bald eagle, it may be time for those with the authority to upgrade the warbler from endangered to threatened, and to relax the

pedestrian restrictions.

If some action is not taken, and taken soon, we could find all the upper Lower Peninsula jack pine forests closed at least part of the year.

Anticipate high timber sale profits

CADILLAC - Fiscal year 1994 could well be a banner year for the Huron-Manistee National Forest's timber sale program, according to the Cadillac district office.

The trend for this year is that revenues are considerably higher than in the previous two years, the report said. As of April, revenues from timber sales were almost \$1.7 million.

Timber stumpage values on the Huron-Manistee National Forest increased insignificantly during the past year, it was noted.

The State of Michigan is entitled to 25 percent of gross revenues from national forest timber sales. For fiscal year 1993, the state received \$595,453 in returns from the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

Lake Huron level remains high

TAWAS CITY - Currently inches above its long term monthly average for July, Lake Huron's water level is 30 inches above its chart datum of 1 foot above sea level.

Detroit District, Army Corps of Engineers said in its Friday, July 8 water forecast that on that date the lake was 580.02 feet. At that level, the lake is three inches above the level posted June 8 of this year but five inches than the level recorded July 8, 1993.

Corps officials said the level a 21 inches below July's 100 - year water mark set in 1986 and 41 inches higher than Lake Huron's 100 - year water level posted in 1964.

Projections are the level will remain unchanged between now and August.

* * *
The best public speaker are those who keep their speeches succinct and entertaining.

Outdoor Guide

Your Outdoor Headquarters For FISHING - CAMPING - BOATING

Hunter's Shack

Archery

North Woods, WI

Drawdown Starts At Deadstream Flooding; Warblers To Benefit By Controlled Burn

New Jack Pine Growth Planned In Mio Area

Two significant modern land management projects designed to better wildlife habitat are scheduled to get underway this spring. A drawdown on the Deadstream Swamp on the Roscommon-Missaukee county line by the Conservation Department starts this week to permit herbicide spraying, cutting of woody plants, dragline operations, pothole blasting and nesting island creation. The second operation due early in April is a controlled burn on 500 acres of jack pine country in the Mio area by the U. S. Forest Service to create habitat for the rare Kirtland's warblers.

Plans for the 2,000-acre Deadstream Swamp project were outlined last week by the Conservation Department to about 30 local citizens and 30 Department personnel. The meeting at the Higgins Lake Conservation School called by C. Troy Yoder, Region II manager, drew representatives of the Roscommon County Board of Supervisors, Road Commission, Missaukee County Road Commission, Houghton Lake C. of C., Lake County Department of Health and C. of C., resort owners, representatives of Michigan United Conservation Clubs and community business people.

Deadstream Drawdown Underway



Roscommon Herald-News Staff

A map showing areas of proposed management of Deadstream Swamp in Roscommon County is explained by Dr. Ralph I. Blouch, in charge of the Houghton Lake Wildlife Experiment Station (right), Hans Grether, of Higgins Lake, active in the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (left) hopes to retain a part of the western side of the swamp in a primitive condition. Management plans have been worked out by Buddy Jacob fish biologist (seated left) and John Byelich, game biologist (right) of the Mio field office of the Conservation Department. A drawdown of water north of Reedsburg dam along the old channel will permit spraying, dragline work to open channels, blasting for potholes, creation of nesting lands, and seeding.

The work was described by Dr. Ralph I. Blouch, in charge of the Houghton Lake Wildlife Experiment Station; Buddy Jacob, Mio field office fish biologist and John Byelich, Mio game biologist.

The flooding was created with the Reedsburg Dam and resulted in high usage by waterfowl. Fishing also improved as did muskrat trapping. The flooding the past several years has also attracted national interest among bird watchers and ornithologists for the large population of marsh birds, nesting eagles, osprey and herons.

While the work project is expected to curtail fishing this season as well as nesting of many birds, Dr. Blouch stated that he anticipated greater bird activity as low water permits more species to move in for food.

"The activity will be different from past years, but very interesting, I believe," he said.

The drawdown is now in progress and water is expected to go down 24 to 30 inches. Houghton Lake is not expected to feel the results.

By April 1, some dragline work is expected to start to cut channels through heavy sedge which has cut available water surface during the past years. Conservation Department workers also plan to blast potholes using ammonium nitrate in the thick sedge and cattail areas. In a north-south pattern, 50 ft. wide openings would be created about 350 ft. apart for open water and future seeding. Islands, 35 by 50 ft., will be created. Past records show that four mallards will nest on one island.

Severe disturbance of the bottom, which will not be permitted to dry, will increase food growth. Herbicide spraying by plane starting mid-June and lasting for a two-week period, is also expected to knock out non-food producing weeds. The Department is expected to use dalapron, described as harmless to anything other than grass type vegetation.

Some woody plants in the area will be cut if there is sufficient money.

The final part of the project is scheduled for August 15 to September 1 when islands and spoils will be seeded. Reflooding is set for September 15 to permit waterfowl usage of the area by hunting season.

With the drawdown already started, pike are expected to move out of the area before spawning starts. The presence of an excess population of small fish is expected to be cut drastically during the operation as they are squeezed out of the 2,000-acre flooding, and become prey for big fish. The drawdown is not expected to produce good success for fishermen, for large fish will have enough natural food and will probably ignore bait.

Once the water is put back, better fishing success should be felt within a couple of years, according to Mr. Jacob.

Osprey, eagles and herons will find an abundance of small fish to eat during the drawdown, according to Dr. Blouch. "Tern and bittern will be disturbed, but migrating shore birds should move in and make it a bird watcher's haven this spring," he said.

The management program, made possible with Accelerated Public Works money and matching Department funds, should create improved conditions for seven to 10 years or longer. It is expected to cost about \$5,000.

The swamp, known as the largest natural wild area in the lower peninsula is also receiving attention from nature lovers as a dedicated primitive area. Forest and game management would continue, but roads would be blocked to mechanized traffic, foot trails would be marked and rare natural species such as orchids, large cedars, ferns and nest trees would be safeguarded. The area is north and west of the old channel and includes some 30,000 acres of rough terrain ideal for two and three-day camping and not far from entrance from I-75.

Management for the Kirtland's warbler, the second big project this spring, will aid its nesting area.

The tiny, gray and yellow jack pine songster is the one bird known to nest only in Michigan. Bird watchers come from around the world to see the rare Kirtland's warbler, and it is believed that only about 1,000 exist. Recently the Michigan Audubon Society introduced a campaign aimed at designating the warbler as official Michigan bird.

Kirtland's warblers nest in young jack pine with low-growing branches, generally near Michigan's AuSable River valley. Jack pine, a "fire species" in foresters' terms, does best in a burned over area. Michigan's pine forests are loaded with jack pine cones which never open unless scorched by a fire. So, Kirtland's warblers have been pressed for new nesting areas since forest fire control saved the Michigan woods.

While modern fire control created the Kirtland's problem, it also holds the solution, according to Louis A. Pommerening, Forest Supervisor of the Huron-Manistee National Forests. "Now we can burn selectively and use forest fire to the advantage of man and nature," Mr. Pommerening said.

Four thousand acres of the Huron National Forest in Oscoda County, was dedicated to perpetuation of the famous warbler last June. Under timber sale contract with Packaging Corporation of America, old growth timber was removed and used as raw material for paper. Selected seed trees were left by loggers, who just completed the first 500-acre harvest.

Slash will be seared by the controlled fire, to pop jack pine cones on the seed trees.

By late summer, 1964, tiny jack pine seedlings should be sprouting throughout the nearly mile-square area, Mr. Pommerening said. Within five or 10 years, an entirely new warbler nesting area will have been created. Meanwhile, more logging and more controlled fire will aim toward an endless cycle of new growth to delight warblers.

Assisting in the Kirtland's warbler burn will be fire equipment and manpower mustered from the Michigan Conservation Department and the U. S. Forest Service, as well as loggers and foresters from Packaging Corporation of America. No date has been set, according to Mr. Pommerening, who said the fire would be triggered only when conditions were

QLA

Michigan

Section E

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Warbler battles Army tanks in 1-sided war

By Dudley K. Plerson
News Lansing Bureau

LANSING — Presumably no one would deliberately put a military tank training range within yards of a prime nesting ground for the Kirtland's warbler, one of the most endangered animal species in Michigan and the world.

So, it's generally considered an accident that a tank training run of the Michigan National Guard camp near Grayling abuts a habitat of the rare warbler. But whether it was an accident or not, the Department of Natural Resources now is trying to remedy the situation.

As things now stand, the huge, noisy tanks occasionally stray from their given paths, and blunder into the birds' preserve, crunching the trees under which the birds nest, scaring the animals, and destroying the only type of habitat the fowls seem to accept.

THE BIRDS NEST almost exclusively under 7-to-14-year-old jack pine trees

like those in their protected area next to the military compound.

More than 100 warblers nest in the Grayling area, making it home to almost half of the state's 432 birds, Perez said. No warbler nests have been found in the United States outside of Michigan, said state Department of Natural Resources biologist Raymond Perez.

The Kirtland's warbler sports a distinctive yellow breast that accents its blue-black feathers. The little fowls are about half the size of robins. They're probably hard to see from a moving tank.

Nearly a month ago, nine tanks bulled their way off the tank trail into a posted area reserved for the warblers. Perez, who was on the scene shortly after the destruction, said he saw no evidence that bird nests were squashed, although there are 23 warbler nests in that area.

ERRANT TANKS wander into warbler territory at least twice yearly, said Perez, who isn't happy about it at all. "We can't afford to lose a single nest," he

said. "The signs are posted quite well. Why (the tanks) get off base, I don't know. But anytime you have an endangered species like that it is a problem."

The not-so-peaceful co-existence between the tiny birds and massive tanks at the northern Lower Peninsula camp developed over a period of 30 to 40 years, explained Gregory Huntington, environmental coordinator for the state Department of Military Affairs. Huntington said the camp was there long before the birds decided to nest at Bucks Crossing, a two-square-mile site about 10 miles northeast of Grayling. But the perils to the birds of co-existence with the military have been increasing.

"It's very hard for a tank unit to go through its maneuvers and see the (warbler) signs. The tank drivers have a six-inch slot to look through," Huntington said. "A lot of times they just plain miss the signs, and some out-of-state people (not familiar with warblers) probably ignore the signs altogether."



The rare Kirtland's warbler faces threat from Grayling military range.

Please see Warbler/2E

No 'slow' symbol on buggies, Amish say

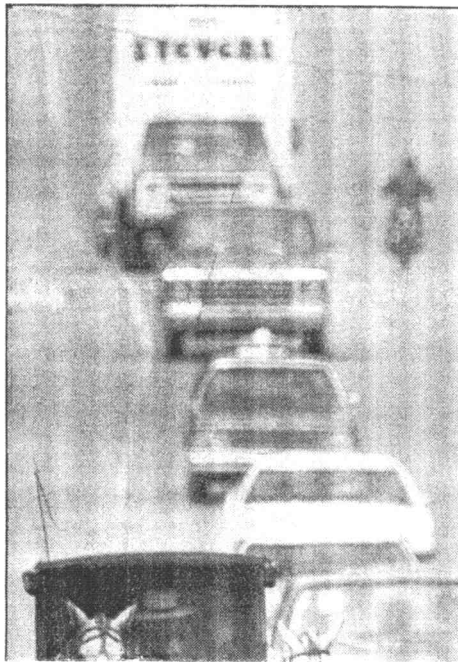
By Allan Lengel
News Lansing Bureau

LANSING — The reclusive Amish in northern Michigan's Gladwin County are adamant about the issue. They probably will leave the county, or possibly the state, if they lose their bid in the Michigan Court of Appeals.

"They definitely would move somewhere they wouldn't be harassed; I don't think they would comply," said William Lindholm, a Lutheran pastor in Livonia who is chairman of the Committee for Amish Religious Freedom.

At issue is whether the Old Order Amish should have to display an orange, triangular "slow-moving vehicle" emblem on their black, horse-drawn buggies when they travel on public roads. There are about 40 Old Order Amish families in Gladwin County.

THE AMISH are saying no to the sign. They opposed the "slow" emblem in an



State industries want to dump more pollutants in some waters

Some Michigan industrial leaders and city officials are contending they should be allowed to increase the amount of pollution they dump in Michigan's lakes and streams.

They advocate a policy called "backsliding." As the anti-pollution system works now, companies, municipalities and others have legal licenses to dump limited quantities of pollutants in given waters. That is one safeguard for state waters.

Analysis AS A second precaution, state and federal rules protect the waters by mandating that the amount of pollution they contain may not exceed a specific minimum.

Advocates of backsliding argue that, if a body of water does not contain the permitted amount of pollution, legal polluters should be allowed to increase the amount of waste they discharge until the water is contaminated to the legal limit.

Gov. James J. Blanchard and officials of environmental groups said they want pollution rules kept strict and enforcement to be tough.

Tomorrow, the state Water Resources Commission is scheduled to consider a resolution that supports current pollution rules and reaffirms the goal of eliminating pollution in Michigan lakes and rivers. The resolution also

LOGROLLERS



PHOTO BY JAMES MCCOMMONS

Judy Scheer Heschler (right) and Heidi Somerville, both of Hayward, Wis., battle it out during the Great Lakes Open Logrolling Championship. The event, held recently in Gladstone, Mich., was part of the town's Bayfest celebration. Heschler won the title for the seventh time.

Murder '60 Mackinac crime

From page 1E

them contained in anonymous letters that kept arriving for five years after the crime. But invariably, investigators hit a blank wall.

Indeed, the case has baffled detectives since the moment the victim, a Dearborn apartment owner, stepped from the lobby of the Murray Hotel on Main Street and vanished.

DESPITE A massive search that involved use of bloodhounds, it was four days before Mrs. Lacey's body was discovered.

Mrs. Lacey had come to the island with other relatives for a vacation, her first since her husband's death two years before. She took a room at the hotel in town, paying in advance. Her relatives stayed in a cabin at British Landing — where English forces sneaked ashore to capture the island in the War of 1812.

Mrs. Lacey was to join her family at a Sunday outing. She insisted on walking the three miles to the cabin on Lake Shore Drive, which circles the island.

No one remembers her leaving the hotel. But a clerk found her room key on the hotel desk about 10 a.m. that day and it was later noted with unknown significance that a small brown suitcase belonging to her had been left in front of the desk instead

of being stored in a special reserved area.

WHAT HAS seemed surprising and important is that no one could recall seeing Mrs. Lacey that Sunday. There were up to 10,000 visitors and more than 2,000 residents and summer employees on the island that day. Further, she apparently was attacked around midday along a trail that usually is busy with tourists riding bicycles or carriages.

A Detroit couple, leisurely cycling around the island, stumbled on Mrs. Lacey's purse lying along the road where police believe she was seized. The two bicyclists reported that when they discovered the purse — which contained identification — they heard "cracking" noises in a nearby thicket. They glanced into a wooded area but they saw no one and moved on.

Police theorize the bicyclists had heard the killer covering Mrs. Lacey's body with branches, and that although the bicyclists couldn't see him, he could clearly see anyone along the road.

INVESTIGATORS THEORIZED that the killer, in fact, got away unnoticed. He left the body with an article of underclothing knotted round the neck.

It's believed that the murderer took Mrs. Lacey's wristwatch and a wallet containing \$100 with him and that he fled on a wooded path called Tranquil Lane.

The couple took Mrs. Lacey's purse and said they intended to call her in Dearborn when they got home. However, they read of the woman's disappearance in Detroit papers and explained where they had picked up the purse. Police then found the body.

VETERAN STATE Police detectives and lab technicians painstakingly reconstructed events of that day. They say they've worked the case meticulously, seeking anyone who could contribute facts. Yet they've been unable to turn up the key element that might unravel the mystery — a witness.

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Warbler Endangered bird battles Army tanks

From page 1E

CONSEQUENTLY, SAYS Huntington, the DNR is trying to encourage the birds to leave their nests near the tank range and relocate in other areas of the 146,000-acre camp.

The DNR plan — jointly developed with Military Affairs officials — calls for gradually destroying the young jack pine trees growing at Bucks Crossing. Since the warblers will nest only in the shadow of such trees, it's thought that the birds will

search out jack pine stands in other areas of the camp and nest far away from the noisy and clumsy tanks.

DNR and Military Affairs officials expect their tentative agreement to win full departmental endorsement next month, Huntington said. After that it will take a few years before the Bucks Crossing nesting ground area is demolished and the birds move on.

Ironically it is destruction at the 50-year-old tank range that created the warbler habitat, Huntington said, explaining that tank shells hitting the area set fires that burned older trees and made room for the younger pines

the warblers like.

WITHOUT THE tanks' periodic destructive bursts, young jack pines — and the warblers — would be in little evidence there, Huntington said. Huntington termed the tentative plan a "monumental agreement."

"It should be a good solution to a conflict that has lasted 2 to 3 years," he said.

There never was a plan to force the military to move away from the warblers. The military at Camp Grayling has an indefinite lease for the land, and it's not charged a cent for rent.

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Forest Blaze Set to Help Warbler

By JAMES A. O. CROWE
Detroit News Outdoors Writer

The U.S. Forest Service, normally dead against forest fires, set deliberately the other way and didn't put it out until 500 acres had been burned over.

This about face occurred in the Huron National Forest near Mio, and it was done because, controlling forest fires efficiently, mankind is outsmarted himself some cases.

The controlled burn is part of a plan, developed a year ago, to preserve the Kirtland's warbler from extinction. Less than 1,000 of the little, non-breasted warblers remain. They nest only in five Michigan counties around Mio, and they enter only in the Barabara Islands.

Michigan's unique warbler will nest only on the ground under young jack pines. In natural conditions, the jack pines of the right size only followed forest fires set by lightning and other causes. Jack pine cones will only open under intense heat, and the millions of seeds liberated by a fire germinate best in the ashes.

AREA SET ASIDE

Now that forest fires are stopped before they cover much more than a few acres, the Kirtland warbler is running out of nesting areas.

The management area, covering more than 4,000 acres of the national forest and another four square miles on adjoining state forests, was set aside. The forest service, the Michigan Department of Conservation, the Michigan Natural Areas Council, the Michigan Audubon Society, the Detroit Audubon Society and the Pontiac Audubon Club joined in a preservation program.

Under the program, the nesting area was closed to allow admission only by permit, clearing and planting programs were set up and controlled forest fires were scheduled. The recent burn, watched over by a 100 U.S. forest rangers and conservation Department personnel, airplanes and helicopters, was the first of a series.

Before the fire, the area was cleared of salvageable pulp wood and the lines were plowed around it. Fire fighting

equipment was stationed in the area, and when wind and moisture conditions were just right, it was touched off.

JUMPS FIRE LINE

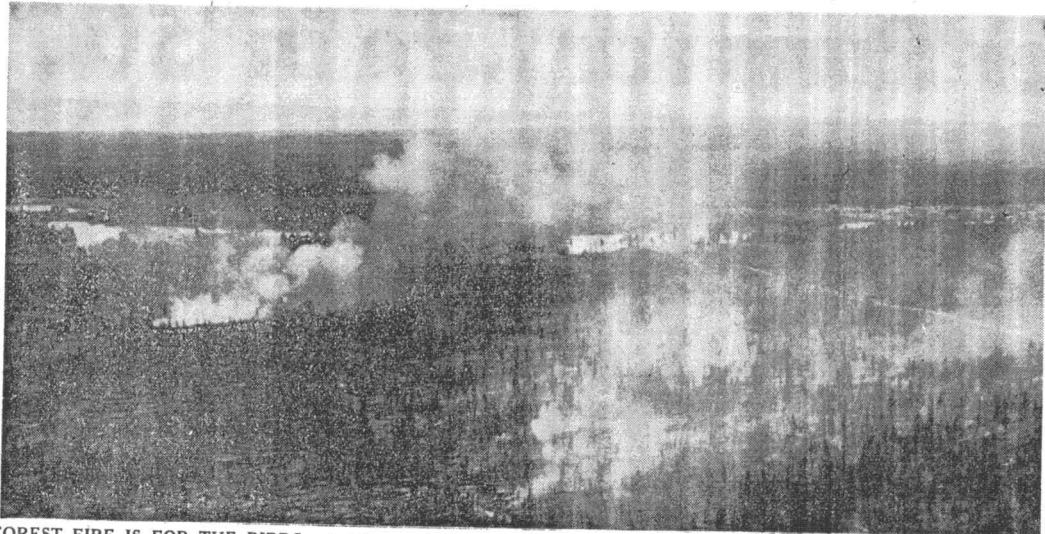
The fire raced through the dry slashings left on the ground and the underbrush and grass. It jumped a fire line briefly at the start, but the errant blaze was pounced on at once and put out before any damage was done.

The blaze largely burned itself out before

the day was over. The embers remaining were doused by an airplane dropping newly developed jellied water, by spreading of a new dry chemical, by the Conservation Department's new sand casting rig and by conventional methods. The fire also gave the opportunity to fire organization plans.

Louis A. Pommerening, supervisor of the Huron-Manistee National Forests, declared the whole affair a success.

FOREST FIRE IS FOR THE BIRDS—A raged near Mio recently and a visitor to thought the whole Lower Peninsula was about But the situation was well in hand. The U.S. I



FOREST FIRE IS FOR THE BIRDS—A 500-acre forest fire raged near Mio recently and a visitor to the area might have thought the whole Lower Peninsula was about to go up in flames. But the situation was well in hand. The U.S. Forest Service, with

the aid of the State Conservation Department had deliberately set 500 acres of the Huron National Forest ablaze, all for the benefit of Michigan's rare bird species, the Kirtland's warbler. The occasion was seized to test air drops of jellied water.



CAUSE OF IT ALL—The Kirtland's warbler, pictured here, is running out of nesting space, so a forest fire was set to help him out. One of the rarest species of birds in the world, the warbler nests only in five counties in northeastern Michigan and only under immature jack pines. There are less than 1,000 of the lemon-breasted songsters left.

The Audubon Club joined in a preservation prog.