

North Central

WISCONSIN – In June, a birder in Wisconsin discovered a nest of the highly endangered Kirtland's warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*). This tiny songbird, which previously nested only in jack pine forests in northern Michigan, hasn't resided outside of the state since 1940 when the birds were observed feeding a nestling in Ontario. Soon after the June discovery on the Plum Creek Timber Company's land, two more nests were found in the area. The historic sighting may be the result of recovery efforts conducted by state and federal government agencies and conservation groups in Michigan. These include the management of nesting habitat, control of the parasitic brown-headed cowbird, and public information sessions on the importance of protecting the bird's habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state of Wisconsin, and the landowner will explore ways to integrate measures to benefit the warbler, whose numbers have increased from 201 singing males in 1971 to just over 1,700 in 2007.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Credit: Lou George/USFWS

A birder recently discovered a Kirtland's warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) nest in Wisconsin. The songbird hasn't been known to reside outside of Michigan since 1940.

Central Mountains and Plains

UTAH – USDA Forest Service officials announced a change in management plans for 18 national forests in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana to protect the threatened Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and its habitat. The Canada lynx, listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as a threatened species in 2000, ranges from the Northeast United States and the Great Lakes region to the northern and southern Rockies. In March 2007, Regional Foresters for U.S. Forest Service Regions 1, 2 and 4 signed documents to revise amend forest plans in the FWS's Northern, Intermountain, and Rocky Mountain regions. The amendment replaces a conservation agreement between the Forest Service and FWS. The amendment, which comes after seven years of analysis and public involvement, applies to occupied lynx habitat and aims to protect the lynx and contribute to its recovery.

Source: USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Credit: iStockphoto.com/Glover

Northwest

MONTANA – The Montana Board of Livestock hazed 300 errant bison (*Bison bison*) back into the Yellowstone National Park as part of this year's most aggressive herding operation in accordance with the Interagency Bison Management Plan. The Interagency partners, which consist of the Montana Department of Livestock, the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the USDA Forest Service, the National Parks Service, and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service made the decision to herd the animals back into the park rather than capture and slaughter them based on requirements of the bison management plan. In an effort to manage the risk of brucellosis, the bison were moved seven miles into the park to prevent them from running astray. In May, seven domestic cows in Montana tested positive for brucellosis, however officials have yet to identify the source of the disease in the cows. Although there is no evidence yet of the spread of brucellosis from bison to cows, Montana's \$2 billion cattle industry has called for the forced reduction of the Yellowstone bison population.

Source: Montana Department of Livestock

Western

CALIFORNIA – Between April and May, a number of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) were affected by domoic acid poisoning in southern California. Domoic acid is a naturally occurring but deadly nerve toxin produced by sea algae. Experts are studying climate change and pollution

The Montana Board of Livestock decided to herd 300 errant bison (*Bison bison*) back into the Yellowstone National Park, as part of the most aggressive herding operation this year.