

HOUGHTON LAKE RESORTIER

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# Warbler one of first on endangered species list

Kirtland's warbler was one of the first to be listed as endangered after Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973. This small, energetic bird, is one of the world's rarest. One reason is the extremely limited area in which it

nests—young jack pine forests growing on a special type of sandy soil in Roscommon and surrounding counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Ser-

vice, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Audubon Society have made considerable progress by working together to save this endangered bird from extinction.

The 1993 count of the endangered Kirtland's warbler showed the bird's largest population in 32 years, according to officials of the Department of Natural Resources. A total of 485 singing

males were located in seven Michigan counties, including Roscommon. This represented a 22% increase from 1992 and the largest count since 1961.

"Our wildlife division specialists see this as an excellent thing for the continued recovery of the Kirtland's warbler," DNR Director Roland Harnes said. "The nearly four million trees planted on state and federal lands this year under the Kirtland's warbler management program will help provide habitat for the warblers in six to 10 years, and we commend DNR wildlife biologists and others who participated in this massive planting effort."

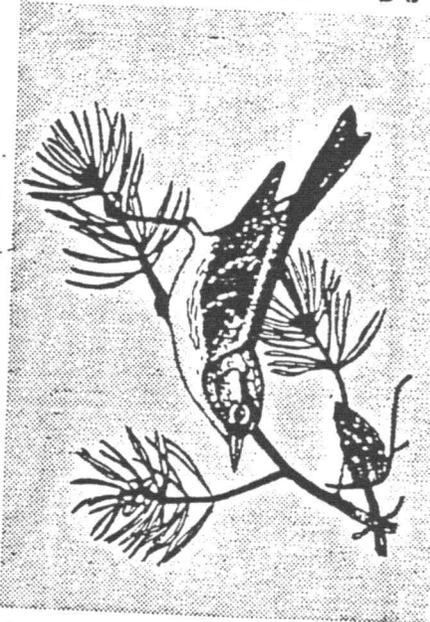
Several tree plantations showed increases in the number of birds using them this year, especially

as nesting habitat for them. DNR Wildlife Biologist Jerry Weinrich of the

blers using them last year. Thirty-four percent of the warblers (166 males) were located in the areas specifically planted for the warblers' nesting habitat.

The seven counties where warblers were found and the number of warblers in each for 1992, are: Alcona-11, Crawford-34, Iosco-3, Kalkaska-4, Ogemaw-81, Oscoda-344 and Roscommon-4.

The survey is done each year during a 10-day period in the first two weeks of June. The 1993 survey was a joint effort with the DNR, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Michigan Department of Military Affairs and citizen volunteers.



the larger-sized plantations. Twenty-six percent of the warblers (104 males) were found in areas specifically planted

Houghton Lake Wildlife Research Station said the plantations showed dramatic increases in the number of Kirtland's war-

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