

# KW NOTES

## Tour Information



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

### Mio Tour Schedule

**Tour Origin:** U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station, Mio

**Dates:** May 15 - July 4

**Days and Times:** Wednesday through Friday - 7:30 AM

Saturday and Sunday - 7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

No tours will be offered on Monday or Tuesday

**Contact:** (517) 826-3252

### Grayling Tour Schedule

**Tour Origin:** Holiday Inn, Grayling

**Dates:** May 15 - July 4

**Days and Times:** Daily, 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM

**Contact:** (517) 337-6650

Local business people in Mio are interested in increasing their business by advertising the Kirtland's warbler tours with other attractions in the area. One local motel and campground placed an advertisement in "Birder's World" magazine. The same business is sending out mailings to prospective birders informing them of the tour dates and times, and of motels in the area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appreciates Michigan Audubon Society's monetary support of the Grayling tours. The Grayling tours will be led by Tracie Earl from Northville, Michigan. Tracie is a recent Michigan State University (MSU) graduate with a strong interest in birds. She was a teaching assistant for an ornithology field lab at MSU.

For additional information on the Kirtland's warbler or guided tours, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 8717 North Roscommon Road, Roscommon, Michigan, 48653, (517) 275-5151, 8 AM - 5 PM, Monday-Friday OR the U.S. Forest Service, Huron-Manistee National Forest, 421 South Mitchell Street, Cadillac, Michigan, 49601, (616) 775-2421, 8 AM - 4 PM, Monday-Friday.

## Information/Education

Here are the members of the Information and Education (I & E) Committee: Bob Hess, Michigan DNR; Connie Chaney, U.S. Forest Service; Mike DeCapita and Kate Winsor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A new publication, "Your Neighbor, the Kirtland's Warbler" will soon be available. This leaflet targets landowners near Kirtland's warbler nesting areas. It describes the needs of the Kirtland's warbler and how the jack pine ecosystem is managed to benefit the warbler, other wildlife, and the forest products industry. The leaflet also provides information on protecting property from wildfire in the fire-prone jack pine forests. For more information, call Kate Winsor at 612/725-3276.

A special issue of "Tracks" magazine featuring the Kirtland's warbler, has just been completed by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, through the efforts of the Kirtland's Warbler I & E Committee. Michigan's Nongame Wildlife Fund paid for this project. Copies can be obtained from the DNR Wildlife Division in Lansing, the U.S. Forest Service in Cadillac, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in East Lansing. For more information, call Bob Hess at 517/826-3211.

Other Kirtland's warbler projects in progress: Environmental education activity (an adaptation of Migration Headaches - Project WILD); placemats for the Holiday Inn in Grayling; an information card on the Kirtland's warbler summer tours for use in MDOT information centers and agency field offices; warbler teaching packets for use in schools. For more information on any of these projects in progress, please call Eve Rolandson at 517/373-1263.

A self-guided auto tour is being developed under the guidance of D.J. Case & Associates and the Kirtland's Warbler I & E Committee. The tour route is about 90 miles long, in two major loops traversing portions of Oscoda, Alcona, Roscommon, and Crawford counties. 15-20 stops along the route will highlight various forest and wildlife management practices being carried out to benefit the Kirtland's warbler and other wildlife. There are also scenic overlooks of the Au Sable River, and other wildlife viewing opportunities such as beaver dams. A self guiding brochure mapping out the route and describing the wildlife, or forest management practices at each site, will be developed. Interpretive signs will also be placed at some of the stops. A detailed tour plan will be presented at the June Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team meeting.

Last year, National Geographic magazine visited portions of U.S. Forest Service land to take photographs of Kirtland's warbler habitat. The photos will appear in an article on songbird decline (to be published this summer).

"KW Notes" is produced each spring and fall by the Information and Education Committee of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. "KW Notes" provides a quick summary of planned activities and accomplishments of the Kirtland's warbler recovery efforts.

If you would like to comment on this newsletter, provide information for future newsletters, or additional copies of this issue, please contact:

Kirtland's Warbler I & E Committee  
C/O Kate Winsor  
Division of Endangered Species  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111  
(612) 725-3276

## Habitat Management (Con't)

### Jack Pine Planting and Regeneration

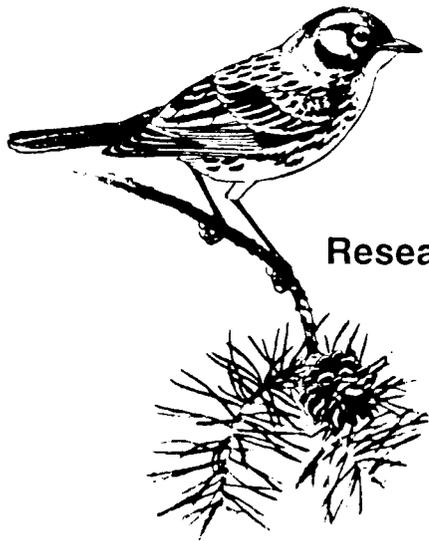
The U.S. Forest Service expects to plant 1,718 acres of jack pine in 1993.

In 1993, the Department of Natural Resources expects to plant 1.5 million trees on 1,200 acres in Ogemaw, Crawford, and Oscoda counties. Contract planting will be done in Montmorency County. Planting begins on April 26.

The U.S. Forest Service is conducting an intensive stocking survey in an area that has been recently harvested. Preliminary results indicate that the area has sufficient number of natural jack pine to make Kirtland's warbler habitat. A report of harvest techniques, soils, ground cover, and survey results will be presented at the next recovery team meeting.

### Prescribed Burning

Plans are set to burn 6 areas this year. Five of the burns will happen on State land, and one burn is planned for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land. No Forest Service areas will be burned this year.



## Research

1992 was the last field season for the Ohio State University and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researchers. A committee has been formed to incorporate this wealth of knowledge into management plans and to suggest priorities for future research.

North Central Forest Experiment Station will continue their habitat work this summer. Researchers, working with Ohio State University, will study how biogeography affects habitat use. Using both a database and field work, they will examine the use of plantations by Kirtland's warblers. Researchers will also focus on habitat quality and the birds' arrival order, and the quality of habitat used by older males versus first year males.

## Other

A "Dr. L. H. Walkinshaw Memorial Scholarship Fund" (for ornithological students) has been set up at Cornell University. If you wish to give to this fund, write to Dr. Scott Sutcliffe, Director, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York, 14850. Checks may be made out to L.H. Walkinshaw Graduate Student Scholarship Fund.

A Bird-of-Fire rose, developed by Mr. Thomas Taylor, is registered to the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. This announcement will appear in an upcoming issue of Modern Roses. A portion of the sales from the roses will be donated to the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team.

The summer meeting of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team is scheduled for June 23-24, 1993, at the Holiday Inn, Grayling.

## Singing Male Census

Biologists are gearing up for the annual Lower Peninsula singing male census, June 6-15. Surveys in the Upper Peninsula will be coordinated by Ray Perez (Department of Natural Resources, Newberry, Michigan). There are no funds available for Wisconsin surveys this year.

## Cowbird Control

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has hired 5 temporary employees for this year's cowbird control project (and public tour). Cowbird trap panels were fabricated in March under contract. Michigan DNR provided lumber, fasteners, and other support. Raising of cowbird traps in the field began April 5. Traps were set with cowbird decoys beginning April 19. Fifty-one traps, a new record, are now being operated in 7 Michigan counties. As in the past, decoy cowbirds needed to start the traps were captured by the U.S.D.A. Denver Wildlife Research Center Field Office in Sandusky, Ohio. Weather difficulties reduced the number of decoys captured in Ohio, and an ice storm during start up week caused high mortality of cowbird decoys already in the traps. All traps were not operational until the second week of trapping. A brand new trap erected on April 13 in eastern Iosco County was gone, completely removed by persons unknown, when biologists arrived on April 21 to add decoys.

## Protection

### Area Closures

In 1993, there will be about 2,430 fewer acres closed than in 1992. Most of these acres are in the southernmost part of the Mack Lake fire area. This habitat has not been occupied within the past 2 years, and it appears to have grown out of suitability. The jack pine in this area have grown very rapidly.

## Habitat Management

### Habitat Management Plan Update/Revision

An interagency habitat committee is reviewing and updating the Kirtland's warbler habitat management program and priorities within the long term management plan.

Three Kirtland's warbler management areas have been entered into the U.S. Forest Service's Geographic Information System (GIS). These areas are Eldorado, Big Creek, and Pine River. Under the supervision of Gary Roloff at Michigan State University, students are helping to prepare remaining maps.

The Department of Natural Resources is digitizing maps for state-owned areas and entering them into a GIS database. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands are included in this database.

