

## Take a tour, see the Kirtland's!

Guided tours to view the rare Kirtland's warbler are available from the historical logging communities of Grayling and Mio. These include:

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Michigan Audubon Society

The USFWS/MAS tours originate from the Ramada Inn, located on the I-75 Business Loop, in Grayling. The tours are held daily at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. from mid-May to early July. There is no charge for the tours.

### U.S. Forest Service

The USFS tours originate from the Mio Ranger District Office at 7 a.m. and are held from mid-May to early July. There are no tours on Memorial Day. Cost of the tour is \$10 per person.

### Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Festival

The annual festival is hosted at Kirtland Community College's main campus near Roscommon on the third Saturday of each May. The event includes three-hour bus tours out into the local jack pine ecosystem at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. the day of the festival. Persons wishing to take the tours must purchase a festival button.

### Tour Notes:

- All tours are conducted by expert wildlife professionals or naturalists.
- Tour length averages 1.5 to 3 hours, but is also dependent on upon weather conditions and wildlife sightings.
- Tour participants with the USFWS/MAS and USFS tour will follow the tour guide in their own vehicles
- Persons attending the tours may bring cameras, binoculars and spotting scopes. No recording equipment or taped bird calls are permitted.
- To protect nesting sites, pets are not permitted on the tours (except service dogs).

## For more information, please contact ...

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2651 Coolidge Road  
Suite 101

East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-351-2555

E-mail: [EastLansing@fws.gov](mailto:EastLansing@fws.gov)

Website: [http://www.fws.gov/midwest/  
EastLansing/tour.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/EastLansing/tour.html)

### U.S. Forest Service

Mio Ranger Station  
107 McKinley Road

Mio, Michigan 48647

Phone: 989-826-3252

E-mail: [miokwtours@fs.fed.us](mailto:miokwtours@fs.fed.us)

### Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Natural Heritage Program  
P.O. Box 30180

Lansing, Michigan 48909

Phone: 517-373-1263

Website: [www.michigan.gov/dnre](http://www.michigan.gov/dnre)

### Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Festival

Kirtland Community College  
10775 N. St. Helen Road

Roscommon, Michigan 48653  
Phone: 989-275-5000, ext. 242

E-mail: [pr@kirtland.edu](mailto:pr@kirtland.edu)

Website: [warbler.kirtland.edu](http://warbler.kirtland.edu)

Let us help you find  
North America's  
rarest song bird ...

## The Kirtland's Warbler



Photo by Ron Austing

## Guided tours by the

U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service

Michigan Audubon  
Society

& the Kirtland's Warbler  
Wildlife Festival



## Come join the celebration at the Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Festival!

Each year on the third Saturday in May, Kirtland Community College hosts the Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Festival at its main campus near Roscommon, located in the heart of the Kirtland's warbler's breeding habitat in northern Michigan.

Hundreds of birding enthusiasts flock to the KWWF, looking to see with their own eyes the beautiful and rare Kirtland's. That's because of the highly trained wildlife biologists who help make the festival's three-hour tours an exciting and educational experience.

But there's much, much more to the KWWF than just birding tours. Festival-goers are treated to a variety of presentations and exhibits, as well as chances to meet with many of the agencies that have helped rescue the Kirtland's.

And, it's a family event, with such activities as the kid's fishing pond, live animals and petting zoo, face-painting and more! Not to mention the food and live music.

For a complete festival schedule and other details, visit online at [warbler.kirtland.edu](http://warbler.kirtland.edu).

# The Kirtland's - North America's rarest warbler

The Kirtland's warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) is our country's rarest warbler. It was one of the first birds to be placed on the Endangered Species List after passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

This small warbler, with its gray-blue back and bright yellow breast, nearly became extinct just a few decades ago.

During spring and summer, it nests in just a few places in the world – mostly in the jack pine forests of northern Michigan, with a handful of warblers also recently being found in Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada. In the fall, it migrates to the Bahamas where it overwinters before starting its trip back north in late April, early May.

The bird's near extinction came about primarily because of changes in its habitat. The warbler nests on the ground beneath the lower branches of jack pine that are between five and 20 feet tall.

When Europeans began to impact the forests in northern Michigan, the nesting habitat of the warbler began to disappear. Naturally occurring forest fires once created the young jack pine forests the birds needed to survive. Man's intrusion changed all that.

Also, the brown-headed cowbird, a brood parasite that lays its eggs in the nests of other species, has expanded its range into Kirtland's habitat, impacting the Kirtland's survival rate.

Today, the Kirtland's warbler is on the



Photo by Ron Austing

comeback because of man's intervention. By using carefully prescribed burns and logging, state and federal agencies working as a team have restored critically needed habitat. A brown-headed cowbird trapping program is also maintained.

The warbler population has been on an upward climb since a low of 167 males in 1987.

Jack pine forests are unique ecosystems and their management benefits many other plant and animal species.

For more information on the Kirtland's warbler and other wildlife species in Michigan, visit online at [www.michigan.gov/dnre](http://www.michigan.gov/dnre). Click on "Wildlife & Habitat" and then "Wildlife Species."

