Kirtland’s warbler making recovery

The Kirtland’s warbler, a sparrow-sized blue-gray and yellow songbird whose entire world population is in a 30-square-mile area in northeastern Michigan and Wisconsin, is on the increase. It was first placed on the Endangered Species List by Congress in 1973.

The Kirtland’s warbler nests in the 80,000-acre leased jack pine forests growing on a special type of sandy soil. The trees must be just the right height (between five to 30 feet) and the birds build their nests in the branches of the jack pine and among thick grass or other plants.

The U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resources Division, U.S. Forest Service, United States Geological Survey. They will have spent eight to ten weeks in the jack pine forest near the Glade(s) brook area capturing and banding the birds and taking data on their survival and study the next generation.

The second population located away from the lake area is another Glade(s) brook area, and will serve as a second population to evaluate.

The banding data on the warblers has been used to monitor the population of warblers in the area and to measure the success of the Kirtland’s warbler recovery.

The population model will be used to determine if the population is sufficient to maintain the species and if the current rate of increase is sufficient.

Kirtland’s warbler populations in the United States have increased significantly since the 1970s, and their numbers are now considered stable. However, the species remains endangered due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

This study is ongoing and will be ongoing for several years to continue monitoring the population and to determine if the species is no longer in need of protection.

AMAZING RECOVERY – The Kirtland’s warbler, a species that has made its summer home only in Michigan, has made a remarkable recovery in population from the 1970s. The breeding in the jack pine habitat, and reduction of cowbirds, has made the recovery possible.

STUDY TEAM – Dr. Kepler, Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey; Christie Deloria, Randy Harris and Michael Puckett, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services before checking birds that were recently studied during Kirtland’s warbler study.

The bird was a dark olive color with a white breast and a white eye stripe.

A Kirtland’s warbler captured in 1996 had been banded in 1986, the oldest banded individual. The average lifespan is three to four years. A Kirtland’s warbler caught in 1996 had been banded in 1986, the oldest banded individual. The average lifespan is three to four years. A Kirtland’s warbler caught in 1996 had been banded in 1986, the oldest banded individual. The average lifespan is three to four years. A Kirtland’s warbler caught in 1996 had been banded in 1986, the oldest banded individual. The average lifespan is three to four years. A Kirtland’s warbler caught in 1996 had been banded in 1986, the oldest banded individual. The average lifespan is three to four years.

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