



IN THIS ISSUE:

Carl Olson: 517-373-1214

- Page 1 - SLIGHT INCREASE SEEN IN KIRTLAND'S NUMBERS
- Page 3 - ILLEGAL FISH BEING BROUGHT INTO STATE
- Page 3 - LAND AUCTIONS TO BE HELD
- Page 4 - BEAR-WATCHING DECLINES AS U.P. PASTIME
- Page 5 - AIR SURVEILLANCE FEE PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED
- Page 6 - DREDGING OF DITCH HALTED BY THE DNR
- Page 6 - GEOLOGY PUBLICATIONS NOW HANDLED BY DNR
- Page 7 - PROPOSED HUNTING CONTROLS TO BE AIRED FOR PLYMOUTH TWP.

SLIGHT INCREASE SEEN IN KIRTLAND'S NUMBERS

LANSING---According to the latest census, the world's population of Kirtland's warblers now totals 358, an increase of 24 over last year.

The census was made by representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and Michigan Audubon Society.

According to Dr. Lawrence Ryel, an ornithologist and chief of the DNR's Office of Surveys and Statistical Services, the population of Kirtland's warblers is determined by walking through prime resting areas and counting the songs of the male bird.

Because the bird is essentially monogamous and territorial in nature, each singing male counted is considered to represent one pair of warblers.

The Kirtland's warbler is an endangered species which nests only in the jack pine country in northeastern Michigan. Each year, after nesting and raising its young, the bird returns to its winter range in the Bahama Islands.

Since 1903, the Kirtland's warbler has been recorded nesting in about a dozen counties of north central Lower Michigan. Currently most of the birds are located in Crawford, Oscoda and Ogemaw counties.

(more)

7/10/75

Modern forest fire control has prevented the creation of new habitat suitable for the Kirtland's warbler and several areas have been designated as management areas.

In these sites, controlled burnings; timber harvesting and special plantings are made to produce the young pine needed by the bird.

Also, parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird, a major problem, is being halted by trapping. The cowbird lays its eggs in the warbler nest and the warbler, unwittingly hatches them. The young cowbirds emerge earlier than the warbler's own young and eventually take over the nest.

It is felt this trapping program had a considerable effect on the slight increase of Kirtland's warblers this year.

Previous census counts of the Kirtland's warbler indicated the following number of male birds:

1951	-----	432
1961	-----	502
1971	-----	201
1972	-----	200
1973	-----	216
1974	-----	167
1975	-----	179

"There was a considerable drop in the number of birds between 1961 and 1971 and we just don't know why," Ryel said. "The Kirtland's spends about four months of the year in Michigan and there may have been some natural disaster which affected it while either in the Bahamas or while migrating there and back."

The Kirtland's warbler has been chosen as the central theme for the 1975 "Michigan's Living Resources" program by the Department of Natural Resources. The bird is featured on a decal, cloth arm patch and a picture poster which soon will go on sale by the DNR. Proceeds from the program are designated, by law, for DNR research and habitat improvement for non-game animals or designated endangered species, or designated plant species.

Order blanks are available by writing "Michigan's Living Resources," Department of Natural Resources, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing, Michigan 48926.

ILLEGAL FISH BEING
BROUGHT INTO STATE

LANSING---The Department of Natural Resources warns Michigan residents against importing grass carp (white amur) into the state to control aquatic weeds in lakes.

DNR Fisheries Division biologists fear this fish may produce similar kinds of adverse effects on water quality, fish habitat and competition with native fish as happened after common carp were introduced in the 1870's.

DNR biologists recently discovered two cases of illegal introduction of grass carp into Michigan waters. The lakes were both treated to eradicate the fish.

"Most scientists who have studied the grass carp have serious doubts about its potential as a biological control for excessive growth of water weeds," said Tom Doyle of DNR's Fisheries Division.

"People should also be aware that it is against state law to introduce undesirable fish species into Michigan," Doyle continued. "The rule specifically mentions the grass carp.

"In addition to a fine and possible imprisonment, a violator could be liable for any costs to the state for killing off an illegal planting of the carp," he concluded. "If they should escape into a stream system, many thousands of dollars could be involved."

LAND AUCTIONS
TO BE HELD

LANSING---The Department of Natural Resources will conduct public auctions of 1,189 parcels of tax-reverted state lands in five locations during July. All funds received from the sales are returned to the counties in which the property is located.

Minimum appraisal value of all the property being offered is \$515,930.

(more)

7/10/75