



RECEIVED
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WILDLIFE DIVISION

RARE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER IDENTIFIED IN QUEBEC

A Kirtland's Warbler, one of North America's rare and endangered bird species, was netted recently in the Gatineau Valley in order to read its band number and released unharmed. The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada reports that this is the first confirmed record of a Kirtland's Warbler in Quebec.

The bird, a lone singing male, was found by a search team organized by the Faculty of Forestry and Landscape Architecture of the University of Toronto, and assisted by members of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds as well as the National Museums of Canada. Last year the same University of Toronto search team, headed by Professor Paul Aird, found a male Kirtland's Warbler near Petawawa, Ontario. These are the only two confirmed sightings of this rare species in Canada since 1967.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, which is responsible for the protection of migratory birds, arranged to have the warbler netted.

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This information was released to the wire services on the date indicated. Despite the delay, some releases and speeches are mailed to out-of-town media because the content is not time-dependent or because it will be useful for background files.

Cette information a été transmise aux agences de presse à la date indiquée. Malgré le retard, certains communiqués et discours sont expédiés aux médias de l'extérieur, parce que leur contenu n'a rien à voir avec les délais ou parce qu'ils peuvent servir comme documentation.

The captured warbler had been banded as a juvenile four years ago near Grayling, Michigan, by Dr. Larry Walkinshaw with the U.S. Government's Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. The Recovery Team has an active program of habitat management and research underway in Michigan to help maintain this endangered species.

Michigan is the only known nesting ground for the Kirtland's Warbler, which migrates to and from the Bahamas. The Quebec capture is the first known case of a Michigan-born bird singing on territory outside of that state. This suggests that the species may not be as restricted in its choice of breeding sites as has been believed so far.

Professor Aird, the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, the Club des Ornithologues de Québec, and the Canadian Wildlife Service are now conducting a search for other individuals of this species in Quebec.

As a result of last year's sighting near Petawawa, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is coordinating a search of selected jack pine forests between Ottawa and Georgian Bay. Cooperating organizations include the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the University of Toronto.

The Kirtland's Warbler (Dendroica kirtlandii), with its clear yellow breast and black streaking on its sides, has a more pronounced song than other warblers found in the region.

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The world population is estimated at less than 500 adult birds. Government and university research is aimed at ensuring the continued survival of this unique species.

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