



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO

News Release

1979 Kirtland's Warbler Tours, Michigan

Kirtland's Warbler nesting areas in Northern Michigan will be closed and posted against public entry during the 1979 nesting season. Warbler watchers may see the bird and view nesting areas only by participating in guided tours.

Free guided tours to Warbler nesting areas will depart from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grayling Field Office in Grayling, and from the U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Office in Mio. The tours, which begin on May 13, will be offered everyday at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. from Grayling, and at the same times everyday except Wednesdays from Mio. The Grayling tour will end on July 7, and the Mio tour will end on July 27.

Actual sighting of the Kirtland's Warbler is not guaranteed. The average date of arrival at the nesting area of the first Kirtland's Warbler is May 12; the latest recorded date of first arrival is May 20. Thus, the chance of seeing the bird during the early guided tours is less than optimum. The best period for seeing the Warbler is during late May and the month of June. The chance of viewing diminishes after July 1. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars or spotting scopes. Tape recorders will not be allowed, and special efforts will not be made for photographers.

Tour guides prefer small groups because they create less disturbance and are more likely to see the bird. No reservations are necessary for individuals or small groups, but large groups are urged to contact the following offices after April 22, 1979, for reservations so that trim schedules can be established.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
c/o Michigan Department of
Natural Resources or
Grayling Field Office
P.O. Box 507
Grayling, Michigan 49738
Phone: 517/348-6371

U.S. Forest Service
District Ranger
Huron National Forest
Mio, Michigan 48647
Phone: 517/826-3717

Prior to April 22, answers to specific questions not covered above may be obtained from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Animal Damage Control
Lewis Cass Building
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-8033