

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
20 June 1991

CONTACT: Thomas Weise  
517-373-1263  
Patricia Stewart  
517-373-1214

LANSTING--The 1991 count of the endangered Kirtland's warbler has shown the bird's largest population increase in 30 years, according to officials of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

When the survey was completed last week, a total of 347 singing males were located in six Michigan counties, along with one warbler in Wisconsin. This represents a 31 percent increase from 1990 and the largest count since 502 singing males were found in 1961.

"We believe this is a good sign for continued recovery of the Kirtland's warbler population," said DNR Director Delbert Rector. "The 1.3 million trees that were planted this year under the Kirtland's warbler management program will help provide habitat in six to ten years and help sustain Kirtland's warblers in the future."

"Several of those plantations showed increases in the number of birds using them this year," added Wildlife Division Chief Karl Hosford. "Almost 25 percent of the warblers this year were found in areas specifically planted as nesting habitat for them."

The entire world's population of this blue-gray and yellow warbler nests in the young jack pine forests in the northern Lower Peninsula.

The six counties where warblers were found this year and the number of warblers in each for 1991 are: Alcona-7, Crawford-65, Kalkaska-7, Ogemaw-17, Oscoda-226, and Roscommon-7.

*Handwritten initials:*  
CJ  
SR

Crawford and Oscoda counties account for 84 percent of the birds. Sixty percent of the total are in an area in Oscoda County that was burned in 1980, known as the Mack Lake burn.

The survey is done each year during a 10-day period in the first two weeks of June. The 1991 survey was a joint effort with the Michigan DNR, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Military Affairs, and citizen volunteers.

###