



NEWS RELEASE

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Canada's Rarest Nesting Bird found at CFB Petawawa

CFB PETAWAWA, Ont. – DND reports rare Kirtland's Warbler Nest

CFB PETAWAWA, Ont. –Canada's rarest nesting bird, the Kirtland's Warbler, has nested in Canada for the first time in sixty-two years. The information has been kept under tight wraps until now.

As part of CFB Petawawa's Species at Risk programme the existence of the breeding birds was kept secret from the public to help protect the young from potential disturbance. Now that the birds have migrated to their wintering grounds in the Bahamas, CFB Petawawa is excited to release the incredible news of this find in Canada.

A female Kirtland's Warbler and her young have not been detected in Canada since 1945. "A successful nest in Canada bodes well that the Kirtland's Warbler population may be re-establishing after an all time low of 200 pairs reported in North America in the 1970's," says CFB Petawawa's Species at Risk Biologist, Tammy Richard. "Until recently, it was thought that the bird only bred in Michigan, USA."

"Military training is our priority, however, environmental stewardship and the protection of the natural habitat of endangered species such as the Kirtland's Warbler is also our responsibility," says the Base Commander LCol William Moore. "National Defence is committed to maintaining the ecological diversity at its training areas across Canada and the creation of this habitat has allowed the Kirtland's Warbler to return."

After the young Kirtland's Warblers left the nest on CFB Petawawa, the nest and the unhatched, unviable eggs were collected by the base biologist. The Base Commander has donated these ecological gifts to the Royal Ontario Museum for study and display. These Kirtland's Warbler eggs and nest are the first for the ROM's extensive bird collection.

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Note to the Editors: For more information, or to set up an interview please contact CFB Petawawa's Base Biologist Tammy Richard at (613) 687-5511 extension 5960.