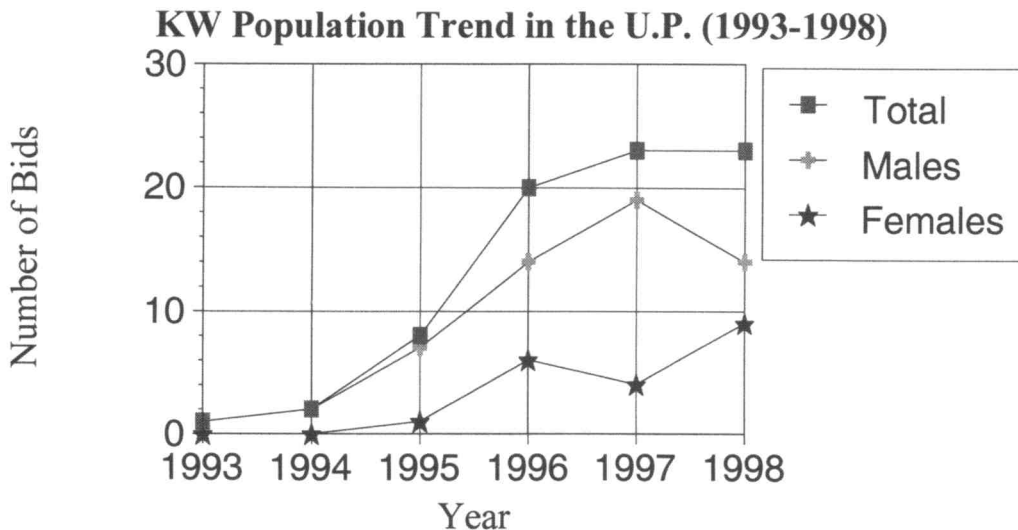


HIAWATHA NF 1999 KIRTLAND'S WARBLER PROGRAM SUMMARY

HABITAT MANAGEMENT; There are four key Landtype Associations (LTA's) on the Hiawatha which potentially provide important habitat for the Kirtland's warbler and associated species (Map on reverse). Much of this habitat is low quality for KW's due to a variety of factors including; low jack pine stocking density, small stand size, stands of trees that are either too short or too tall, wrong forest type and conversion of jack pine to other types. The current habitat management strategy is to recommend large densely-stocked jack pine regeneration units if they fall within 1 of the 4 key LTA's and are within either a sharptail management zone or a 4.4 Management Area. In both 4.4 and sharptail management zones the Hiawatha Forest Plan allows clear-cuts up to 300 acres in size for wildlife habitat. However, KW habitat recommendations remain controversial on the Forest since dense jack pine stocking (ie, 1200/ac) is thought to greatly reduce jack pine productivity, and red pine is viewed as economically more valuable than jack pine.

Stand level GIS data is available only for Beaton Lake Outwash and Whitefish Delta LTA's at this time. Forest Plan revision will likely be initiated this FY, but will take a few years to complete. With improved GIS data, modeling, monitoring, and impending Forest Plan Revision, Biologists on the Forest will resolve some of these issues and develop a clearer picture of long-term KW habitat availability and management options.

CENSUS; The Kirtland's warbler (KW) population in the Upper Peninsula continued to grow in 1998, reaching a historic high of 23 total birds. Of this total U.P. population, 9 singing male birds (64% of the U.P. population) were counted on the west unit of the Hiawatha.



BANDING/MONITORING; In 1998, there were 14 male KW's counted during the official census period in the UP. Follow-up monitoring resulted in finding at least an additional 4 males, and 4 females, not counted during the official census. There was likely movement between stands and peninsulas before, during, and after the census period. Spring and fall banding has been conducted in the UP since June, 1996 resulting in the banding of 23 U.P. Kirtland's (16 in spring, 7 in fall). Other monitoring, conducted during the process of banding, frequently includes evaluation of nest success and presence of females. Monitoring has proven breeding (fledglings observed in 1997 and 1998), and indicates a recent KW range expansion into the U.P.

In August 1998, Paul Thompson was trained by Carol as a potential candidate for future U.P. banding efforts. At the last meeting it was agreed that U.P. spring and fall banding would continue for at least 2 more years (through fall 1999). The Hiawatha will contact Paul soon to initiate this effort for the Hiawatha NF. Will need to decide if this banding will include State and County lands as well and who will coordinate for those lands.