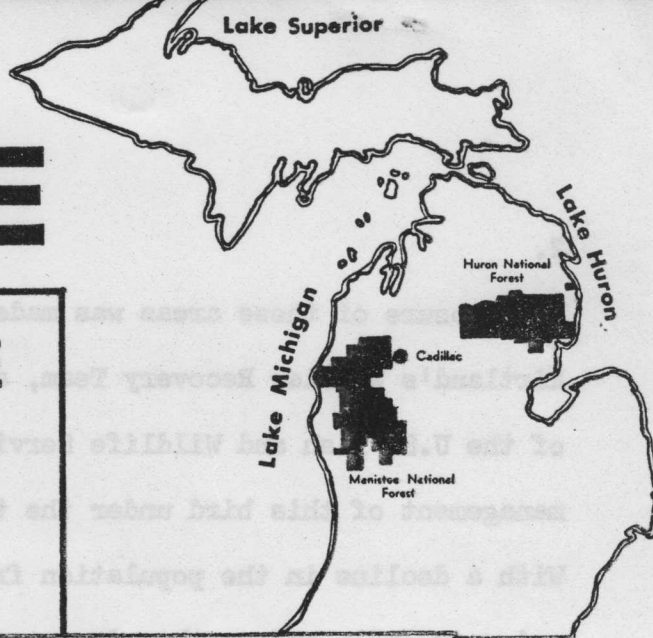


NEWS RELEASE



HURON—MANISTEE

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FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

The Kirtland's Warbler, an endangered and declining species of bird has been given added protection on its nesting range. Jay Cravens, Regional Forester for the U. S. Forest Service in Milwaukee has ordered three areas used by this species for nesting on the Huron National Forest closed to entry except by authorized conducted tours between May 1 and August 15. A similar closing is being made on nesting areas on State Forests by order of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Those people wishing to view this bird on its nesting grounds may still do so. Entry will be permitted only by conducted tours on selected areas. The Forest Service will be making such tours daily out of its Ranger Station at Mio starting May 17. For further information write or call the District Ranger, Huron National Forest, Mio, Michigan 48647 (Phone 517+826-3717). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting tours that will originate daily at the DNR Fish Hatchery in Grayling, Michigan. Phone No.. 517+348-6371.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

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The closure of these areas was made in response to a recommendation of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team, a group recently appointed by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to draw up plans for the protection and management of this bird under the terms of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. With a decline in the population from some 500 nesting pairs in 1961 to 200 pairs in 1971, and another drop to 167 pairs in 1974, this group felt that this action was necessary to protect this species from any possible losses by human disturbance. These birds are ground nesters and their nesting activities can be disrupted by excessive disturbance.

In closing these areas Cravens said that the Forest Service is significantly increasing its efforts on the Huron National Forest to increase the available nesting habitat for the Kirtland's Warbler and the DNR is doing likewise. Also, the Fish and Wildlife Service is making a great effort to reduce the cowbirds that parasitize the nests of these and other birds. "We hope that we receive the cooperation of all Forest users, bird watchers, berry pickers, motorcyclists, and all, in helping us to protect the Kirtland's Warbler and its habitat; THEIR SURVIVAL MAY DEPEND ON IT."

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