



Wisconsin Kirtland's Warbler Update July 7, 2010

Adams County

This year, we recorded a record number of Kirtland's warblers in Wisconsin. However, the 2010 nesting season has not lived up to expectations, with a higher incidence of cowbird nest parasitism than observed in previous years, and some nest losses to predators. As of today, Nick has recorded a total of 15 nesting attempts in the main Adams County nesting area, of which five were renests. Despite our intensive cowbird trapping efforts, six nests were parasitized by cowbirds, and all of these resulted in nest failure. At least four nests were lost to predators, and so far one nest has fledged a total of four young. As of today, at least four and possibly five nests are still active, with most still incubating, and one recently hatched.

In addition to the above totals, Paul has been monitoring our satellite Adams County site, where the single pair present has successfully fledged five young. For all of Adams County in 2010, we documented the presence of at least 20 males and 11 females, which so far have fledged at least nine young, with at least four nests still active.

Marinette County

The pair of Kirtland's warblers that were present at this site have not been seen since Paul observed the female on June 8, so if they nested here they apparently failed early on.

Bayfield and Douglas Counties

The birds previously reported in Bayfield and Douglas Counties have not been seen for several weeks now, despite extensive searches by Paul over the past week. This area holds great promise for the future, however, as there is an abundance of seemingly suitable habitat present.



Kirtland's warbler nest with two cowbird eggs. Adams County, WI. June 10, 2010. Photo by Nick Walton

Joel A. Trick
US Fish & Wildlife Service
2661 Scott Tower Drive
New Franken, WI 54229
920-866-1737
joel_trick@fws.gov

Kim Grveles
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street - ER/6
Madison, WI 53703
608-264-8594
kim.grveles@wisconsin.gov