



Wisconsin Kirtland's Warbler Update June 10, 2011

Adams County Report

We have observed no new arrivals since the previous update, so the total number of Kirtland's warblers known to be present at our main Adams County nesting site remains at 17 males and 11 females. Warbler monitors Sam and Caitlynn have both spent time in the territories of birds known to be paired, carefully observing females to determine the locations of their nests. Though few nests have been found to date, it appears that most females are in the process of laying, and are expected to commence incubation in the next few days. Our sense that nest initiation has been delayed this year due to our cool, late spring appears to be holding true.



Marinette County Kirtland's warbler that we captured and banded on June 1. Photo by Jack Swelstad, May 29, 2011.

Statewide Surveys

Volunteer surveyors continue to search for Kirtland's warblers, yet only one new observation has been reported since last week. This report came from a volunteer in Douglas County, who found a singing male at a site about 6 miles from where a bird was reported in nearby Bayfield County on May 20, but never relocated during follow up visits. We also received a second hand report of birds responding to taped recordings played by a University researcher in Jackson County, but a visit to the site on Thursday morning of this week came up empty.

The official Kirtland's Warbler Singing Male Census period began Monday, June 6. Any males observed prior to June 6 must be relocated during the Census period (June 6-20) in order to be counted in the Census. We will continue to check on birds already located, such as the bird we banded in Marinette County, and to look for birds at other sites, including satellite sites in Adams County.

Cowbird Trapping

USDA-Wildlife Services has had three cowbird traps in operation at the Adams county site since April 18. Wildlife Specialist Barry Benson reports that through June 10, a total of 148 cowbirds have been trapped so far this year. This compares to 204 captured through 8 weeks of trapping in 2010, and 293 for the same period in 2009. We plan to continue our cowbird trapping for another two weeks.

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