



Wisconsin Kirtland's Warbler Update June 18, 2011

Adams County Report

Warbler monitors Sam and Caitlynn continue their careful observations in the territories of known pairs to determine the locations of nests. So far, we have discovered the locations of four nests, and most females are probably now incubating. At least one nest has hatched as of Thursday, though we suspect that most nests are still in their early stages.

Some notable observations have come this week from Caitlynn, who has been monitoring the satellite Adams County site where we have had a single pair nesting each of the past two years. The male that was present in 2009 and 2010 has again returned, and early this week Caitlynn confirmed the presence of another banded male at the site. This particular bird was originally banded at our main site in 2009 and also present in 2010, but was never successful in attracting a mate. In July of 2010, monitor Paul Schilke observed this bird at our satellite site, and we hypothesized that the bird was scouting the area for future nesting, a theory which has now been confirmed. On Friday, Caitlynn discovered another, unbanded male at this site, bringing the total number of male Kirtland's warblers now known to be present in Adams County to 20.



This Adams County Kirtland's warbler banded in 2009 is back again for the third straight year. Photo by Joel Trick, June 12, 2011.

Statewide Surveys

Wisconsin's 2011 Annual Kirtland's Warbler Survey ended on Wednesday, June 15. Reports for roughly 63% of assigned survey sites have been received to date. Singing males were confirmed at three sites in Marinette County. A lone male located in Bayfield County in May was not found on subsequent visits to the site, but a bird discovered about 6 miles away in Douglas

County on June 9 was seen multiple times through June 16. Because of the close proximity of these sites, it is possible that this is the same bird because unmated males have a tendency to wander.



*This Douglas County Kirtland's warbler may be the same bird seen approximately 6 miles away in Bayfield County on May 20.
Photo by Michael Sabyan, June 16, 2011.*

The bird seen in Vilas County on May 25 was not found again during a second visit on June 2. Only males observed during the official Michigan Kirtland's Warbler Census period (6-20 June) may be included in the census tally. New sightings reported before June 20 will be included in Wisconsin's census, if they can be confirmed (e.g., identified from a photo). Sightings should be reported to Kim Grveles at 608-264-8594, kim.grveles@wisconsin.gov; or to Joel Trick at 920-866-1737, Joel_Trick@fws.gov.

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 the capture of another nine brown-headed cowbirds this week, bringing the season total to 157. This compares to 216 captured through 9 weeks of trapping in 2010, and 303 for the same period in 2009. We plan to continue our cowbird trapping for one more week.

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