



Wisconsin Kirtland's Warbler Update June 22, 2010

Adams County

As of the end of last week, Nick has detected an additional three females, bringing the total number of females known to be present to 10. An unbanded male was present early last week, but has not been seen for several days, so the total number of males at the site is now 17 or 18. There have been eleven nests detected, three nests abandoned and one nest found empty just prior to the expected date of fledging, which was likely predated. There are currently seven nests known to be active, plus an eighth that is suspected present, but not yet found. Most of these nests are expected to hatch within the next week or so. In addition to the above totals, the nest at the other Adams County site has hatched, and the adults are currently feeding young.

Marinette County

We did not visit the pair of Kirtland's warblers that were previously confirmed present at this site, but intend to check on them again next week

Bayfield and Douglas Counties

This past week we sent Paul up to check on the multiple Kirtland's warblers reported in Bayfield and Douglas Counties. Despite extensive searches, Paul was only able to locate one of the three males reported the week before. Just in the past few days, a visit to the site by another cooperater failed to re-find this bird. We will ask several cooperaters to monitor this site, and will make an effort to band him if he is found again.



*Banded male Kirtland's warbler
in Adams County nesting area,
June 17, 2010.*

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

Cowbird Trapping

USDA Wildlife Specialist Barry Benson reports that over the past week, an additional 12 cowbirds were captured in the three cowbird traps. We have now ceased cowbird trapping for the year, and for the 2010 trapping season a total of 216 cowbirds were captured, consisting of 151 males and 65 females. This compares to 303 captured in 2009 (221 males, 82 females). Blue jays were the only non-target species captured (7), and all were released unharmed.

Annual Kirtland's Warbler Survey

The 2010 Kirtland's Warbler Survey was conducted by 29 volunteers and 8 staff who surveyed at least 75 pine stands on public and private properties in 7 Counties. Since our June 14 update, no new observations of Kirtland's warblers were reported. Totals for the season are 9 males and three females (all found outside of the Adams County main breeding site between 15 May and 15 June). Distribution of males was in four counties with 5 males reported for Marinette County and one male each observed in Adams, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties. One female was found in each of three counties: Adams, Marinette, and Bayfield with a nest also located at the Adams site. In Jackson County, we had a possible male heard singing, but this bird could not be confirmed. Wisconsin's official 2010 count of singing males includes only 4 of the 9 confirmed males because the remaining 5 males were observed prior to the census period of June 6-15.

The 2010 survey season, which ended a week ago on June 15, presented our volunteers with some very special moments. The few who found Kirtland's warblers realized the thrill of seeing this rare species in a Wisconsin setting, while other surveyors encountered uncommon sightings such as nesting common nighthawks, Connecticut warblers and a black bear. Hopefully, all our participants enjoyed their field experiences and now have a sense of the terrific contribution that they made to this project. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their talents and dedication and for returning their paperwork in record time.

Anyone finding a Kirtland's warbler in the coming weeks is asked to contact either Joel Trick or Kim Grveles at the emails and telephone numbers listed below.

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

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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