

Kirtland's Warbler

Dendroica kirtlandii



Photo: DND/D. Coulson



Photo: Tammy Richard/DND



PROVINCIAL STATUS

Endangered

- regular rare migrant; very rare breeding

DESCRIPTION

- sparrow-sized perching bird
- bluish gray above, yellow below with black spots or streaks confined to the sides.
- thin white wing bars
- split eye ring
- pumps tail up and down
- female is slightly duller in colour than male

VOCALIZATION

- typical song is loud and lively, carries several hundred metres
- starts with 3 or 4 staccato notes and continues with rapid ringing notes on a higher pitch
- sounds like *chip-chip-che-way-o*

PREFERRED HABITAT

- large stands of young Jack Pine, 7 to 20 years of age

OCCURRENCE

Spring arrival: mid-May
Fall departure: mid-August

WINTERING GROUNDS

- Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands

LOCAL POPULATION

- recent nesting in Renfrew County
- centre of population between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in Michigan

THREATS

- very low numbers, fewer than 2000 pairs in the world
- predators/parasites: Brown-headed Cowbirds lay their eggs in warbler nests
- habitat rarity due to fire suppression, forestry management for other pine species
- habitat destruction and alterations on wintering grounds

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats pine sap, berries, flies, caterpillars, moths
- eaten by small hawks, shrike, Blue Jay, Red Squirrel
- active in daytime
- requires young Jack Pine forest
- nests on ground

WHAT WE CAN DO

- forest management to provide young Jack Pine forests