



# THE K.W. CUE

Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team Newsletter

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## April 6, 2021 Virtual KW Meeting

Join the KW Conservation Team for the Spring 2021 meeting, from the comfort of your home or office! With hopes of an in-person fall meeting planned for September, health and safety will be prioritized for the annual April meeting. A final agenda will be released in early March. Please watch [www.kwconservation.org](http://www.kwconservation.org) for updates and registration. Topics will include: KW monitoring updates, KW Non-breeding range conservation plan and Bahamas updates, Breeding Range work plan outcomes, and key stakeholder identification and prioritization conversations.

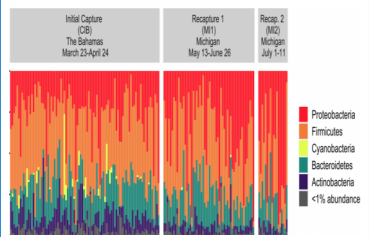
### 2021 KW Census

- The 2021 Census will take place on **June 6-27, 2021**.
- Post Delisting Monitoring Plan calls for full census in 2021, 2025, and 2029 and survey (sampled census) in 2023, 2027, and 2031.
- KW Ad-Hoc Monitoring Committee (led by Katie O'Brien, USFWS) has been meeting monthly, and is focusing on getting maps and volunteers in order. The Kirtland's Warbler Alliance is leading efforts to recruit and train volunteers for the Census.
- The current protocols will be used for the 2021 census; however, Nathan Cooper's team is testing several modified protocols to inform design of the monitoring program into the future.
- Skilled volunteers are still needed! The volunteer registration form is available on the **MI DNR Stewardship Volunteer** website, found here: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/CensusVolunteerRegistrationForm\\_716006\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/CensusVolunteerRegistrationForm_716006_7.pdf)

### New Publication:

Heather Skeen, Nathan Cooper, Shannon Hackett, et al. Impact of changing environments on the gut microbiome of a migratory songbird. *Authorea*. October 8, 2020.

<https://www.authorea.com/users/365153/articles/485373-impact-of-changing-environments-on-the-gut-microbiome-of-a-migratory-songbird>



### Get to Know a KW Conservation Team Member:



Dr. Bocetti is a Professor at California University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Biology, Geology, and Environmental Sciences. She has served in various core roles within Kirtland's Warbler conservation for over 30 years. In 2011, she was honored with a Recovery Champion Award by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for her work as a recovery team leader; she also received the agency's 2013 Recovery Champion Award for her work with the Delmarva Fox Squirrel Recovery Team. She was the principal investigator on that team, as well as for The Kirtland's Warbler team. Dr. Bocetti received her Bachelor's degree in 1986 from the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, and her Master's degree (1991) and Doctorate (1994) in zoology from Ohio State University.



Kirtland's Warbler by USFWS—Midwest Region



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### KW Subcommittee Progress Reports

#### HUMAN DIMENSIONS

- Abby Ertel (Huron Pines) and Emily Pomeranz (HD Researcher, MIDNR) have been working with the KW Steering Committee to consider important questions like:
  - ⇒ *What factors influence KWCT recommendations by partner organizations?*
  - ⇒ *Where do we witness implementation gaps or barriers?*
  - ⇒ *How can we improve interactions between partners?*
- Discussion in the HD Subcommittee and Steering Committee in early 2021 will focus extra time on identifying who the vital KW stakeholders are, and reach out to stakeholders that aren't currently part of the discussion (such as the forest industry).
- Entries for the 2021 KW Calendar are being collected in the Bahamas and in Michigan.

#### NON-BREEDING RANGE

- The KW Non-Breeding Range Conservation Plan has been completed by Dave Ewert and other members of the subcommittee.
- Bahamas work includes KW Monitoring on Eleuthera goat pastures and the development of a Bahamian nursery for Black Torch and white sage

#### BREEDING RANGE

- It is a goal of the KW Conservation Plan and KW Breeding Range Work Plan to assess the status and distribution of potential habitat management opportunities to determine if changes are needed to areas currently managed for the Kirtland's Warbler, considering the current concentration of breeding pairs and climate change.
- The KWCT has established an Expanding Breeding Range Workgroup and set an interim goal of 200 breeding pairs outside of the core breeding range in Michigan's northern lower peninsula. Recently, the workgroup completed a mapping analysis to better identify potential KW management opportunities in WI and the UP of MI. Preliminary results will be presented at the spring meeting of the Conservation Team.

#### FINANCE

- The ABC KW long-term fund balance is about \$160,000 and the Natural Resources Foundation of WI, ABC Kirtland's Warbler fund is about \$25,000.
- Efforts are underway to secure 2022 funding for the KW Coordinator Position.

#### Progress Highlights

-\$225,300 was provided for 2021 jack pine plantings through the National Forest Federation (NFF). The trees will be planted on several different KW sites, at the 1089 tree density per acre, with the "diamond leaf" pattern that is used. There are some different density trials that will be occurring in the future, but these are through the Good Neighbor Authority program, and will be paid through GNA funds.

-The USFS has created the Huron-Manistee National Forest Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour StoryMap! The tour is approximately 58 miles long and winds through the scenic Au Sable River valley with several stops offering picturesque views along the way. It is available in their [HMNF web gallery](#); check it out!

-The KWCT has hired a KW Conservation Team Coordinator, effective Dec. 2020! Please reach out to Kirstie Heidenreich at [kheidenreich@abcbirds.org](mailto:kheidenreich@abcbirds.org) if she may be of any assistance.

-The KW Cue is a new initiative of the KWCT, and will be a quarterly publication. It will be archived at [kwconservation.org](http://kwconservation.org).

### DNR AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE COOPERATE ON 'GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY'

Through the use of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), the Huron-Manistee National Forest (HMNF) and DNR have worked together to address the absence of wildfire in jack pine ecosystems by mimicking natural processes. This is primarily done through large-scale timber harvesting and human-assisted reforestation. Since 2015, the HMNF and DNR have included approximately 2,800 acres of treatments to develop KW breeding habitat into their annual, Supplemental Project Agreements. The DNR performs all aspects of implementation – project preparation and layout, selling the commercially viable jack pine, administration of the timber sale, and reforestation activities. Timber receipts offset the cost of replanting jack pine at the appropriate locations, scales, arrangements, and densities needed to support viable population of nesting Kirtland's warblers that would not otherwise be feasible through conservation dollars.

