

**Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team  
Summer Meeting Agenda  
July 18–20, 2023  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI**



**DAY ONE (Tuesday, July 18)**

**A1. 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM – In-person registration at the Kewadin Casino**

**B1. 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Lunch**

**C1. 1:00 – 1:15 PM – Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Overview (Carol Bocetti, Steve Roels)**

**D1. 1:15 – 1:20 PM – Welcome to Hiawatha National Forest (Shannon Rische)**

**E1. 1:20 – 1:50 PM – Opening Keynote: Co-Stewardship in Boreal Forest Ecosystems (Eric Clark)**

Eric Clark has been a wildlife biologist with Sault tribe since 2008. Sault Tribe and USFS signed a co-management agreement in February 2023 that intends to use both Anishinaabe knowledge and Western science to build more resilient ecological systems. These ways of knowing are distinct “lenses” for viewing the world and both perspectives bring value to adaptive resource management. Notably, the 1836 treaty-seeded territory of the Anishinaabe strongly overlaps with the distribution of white cedar and snowshoe hare in the hemiboreal region, and also contains the majority of the range of Kirtland's Warbler. The Sault Tribe calls the new management collaboration the Ishkode Project (Ishkode means “fire”) because of the emphasis on returning managed fire to the landscape.

**F1. 1:50 – 2:40 PM – Breeding Range Subcommittee**

1. Status of Conservation Plan update (15 minutes; Phil Huber)

The Breeding Range Conservation Plan was last updated in 2015 (interagency MOU signed in 2016). In 2022, the KWCT decided to update the plan to bring science up to date and incorporate Wisconsin KW populations. A draft of the plan is just finished and will now go to review with members of the Conservation Plan Update ad hoc subcommittee before it is sent to agencies and tribes for comment. The plan does not include Ontario because any associated MOU would be difficult to finalize if it had an international scope. The hope is for the plan to be finalized by January 2024. A new MOU will be signed in 2026.

2. Wilderness Trail Fire (10 minutes; Keith Kintigh)

A wildfire started on June 3 that burned 2,418 acres in Grayling Township. The fire burned through the Staley Lake KWMA, including approximately 125 acres of occupied habitat. Another 560 acres of post-occupancy jack pine plantation was also burned, including a proof-of-concept mastication plot. The Michigan DNR is currently discussing plans for the burned area including how long to observe natural jack pine regeneration, replanting, and whether or not to salvage log the site. Oak is already resprouting in burned areas. One possible approach is to interplant the acreage within the KWMA, which still retains the previous trenching. Planting could occur at 900 trees/ac, with the

assumption that natural regeneration would boost density further. The area outside the KWMA is not expected to be salvage logged. Some KW occupancy may be expected in this area in the future, but these acres will not be included in habitat accomplishment totals. The MDNR would love to monitor the area for multi-species responses to the fire, but does not have the resources to do so and welcomes other partners to do it.

3. 2023 Planting Season and Drought Effects (5 minutes; Keith Kintigh)

A very dry late spring period caused some concern about the survival of planted jack pine, but recent rains have reduced the risk to seedlings. Regeneration surveys in the fall will show the relative survivorship of bare root and container stock trees. Last year's container stock had >90% survivorship.

4. Discussion: Tracking experimental jack pine forestry sites (20 minutes; Keith Kintigh, Phil Huber)

The MDNR and USFS have a spreadsheet that tracks experimental jack pine plantations, but it has not been updated since 2021. The variable density and red pine interplanting sites need to be added to the spreadsheet. Making updates to the spreadsheet a regular agenda item at KWCT semiannual meetings will improve accountability and enable more effective monitoring and research at experimental sites. Keith and Phil will bring the spreadsheet up to date by February 2024 and add it to the Google Drive prior to the Winter meeting. Additional columns will be added to capture information such as tree density and demography.

Question from Sam Burckhardt: The habitat closure signage in the field has changed regarding the closure dates. Agency staff confirmed that the signage was changed in accordance with the dates specified in the new conservation plan and should protect the vast majority of nests while also accommodating blueberry pickers later in the summer.

**G1. 2:40 – 2:50 PM \*\* Afternoon Break (10 minutes) \*\***

**H1. 2:50 – 4:00 PM – Monitoring Subcommittee**

1. Monitoring guidance for habitat experiments (15 minutes; Nathan Cooper)

The Monitoring subcommittee has created a one-page guidance document with questions for project designers to consider as they develop monitoring plans. The intent is for plans to be developed in response to the guidance and then refined in collaboration with the Monitoring subcommittee. It is important for all parties creating experimental habitat to be aware of and engage with this process.

2. Cowbird monitoring (5 minutes; Nathan Cooper)

Trapping has been suspended in MI since 2018. Only 6 of 571 KW nests found by Nathan's crews have been parasitized, with none found in the last two years. The low rate of parasitism means Nathan has been unable to relate parasitism with BHCO density on the landscape. Nathan is currently discussing a collaboration with Cornell that would use eBird data to model trends in the regional BHCO population as a companion to the publicly available BBS data. Nest data during the last two years has been collected opportunistically and Nathan does not have any nest-related work planned for the next two years. Agency representatives agreed that an assessment of nest parasitism rates should be conducted every four years.

3. 2023 Census results

a. USFS (20 minutes; Eric O'Neil, Paul Thompson)

HMNF counted 1,011 singing males on 19,933 census acres. This is down approximately 9% since the last census. Notable observations were the ongoing occupancy of the No Pablo Burn (23 years old) and KWs using unburned strips of 12-year-old trees within the Brittle Burn (2 years old).

The Hiawatha NF census counted 27 birds (21 in the east zone and 6 in the west zone), down from 42 birds on the prior census. 10 birds were found in the Duck Lake Burn (MDNR land). The Ottawa NF had six birds in the area next to the Baraga II project.

b. Michigan DNR (15 minutes; Keith Kintigh)

The MDNR conducted a 50% census, primarily on lands with the highest expected density, finding 460 birds. This is down from 493 birds in 2021 (if the Wilderness Trail Burn area is excluded—it was not counted in 2023 since the burn happened just before the census).

c. Wisconsin DNR (5 minutes; Davin Lopez)

19 birds were counted in 2023, down from 32 in 2022 and 39 in 2021. A decline occurred across all counties with populations. No nest monitoring occurred in 2023 because of a staffing shortage. The overall decline may be due to poor fledging survival or storm damage, which affected a significant amount of habitat. The WI census relies heavily on volunteers and more help is needed to advance scout areas for an effective census.

Bill Rapai asked if the apparent decline in census numbers across the board was a cause for concern. The general response was that magnitude of the decline was moderate and thus we couldn't know if census numbers reflected a true population decline or not. Chris Mensing pointed out that a decline would be expected given the decline in habitat acreage and that this could be a problem if census numbers continue to trend lower (raising confidence that there is a real population decline). Carol Bocetti pointed out that this ambiguity underscores the need to develop a census method that includes probability of detection.

d. Ontario (5 minutes; Ken Tuininga)

Petawawa was down to 3 singing males from 6 in 2022. Simcoe County sites also declined; Ken does not have exact numbers from each site, but the Packard Tract had 1 bird after 5 in 2022. A new habitat area on Georgian Bay (a 2018 fire) attracted 4 birds this year, the first recorded at the site.

4. Bahamas Winter Rainfall (5 minutes; Steve Roels)

Monitoring of winter rainfall is included in the Post-delisting Monitoring Plan. Steve is waiting for data from Scott Johnson in The Bahamas. In general, the KWCT should invest more effort in collecting rainfall data since Sarah Rockwell's research demonstrated the significance of late winter precipitation to KW. Dave Ewert added that ABC staff heard qualitatively that it was dry in the late winter in Nassau.

**11. 4:00 – 5:00 PM – Non-breeding Range Subcommittee**

1. Bahamas National Trust update (30 minutes; Falon Cartwright, Ancilleno Davis)

New legislation pertaining to research permitting has significantly affected BNT's work, along with that of international researchers. There are some signs of improvement as observational research cooperative agreements no longer require some of the most problematic language in the standard permit. BNT is working to build its monitoring capacity; Science Officer Demonica Brown is working with Mike Akresh on a GIS mapping project and BNT is involved in the BirdsCaribbean Landbird Monitoring Project. Community outreach and education efforts continue. The calendar contest is a highlight as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place this year went to Bahamian students and teachers have expressed a desire for more integration of Kirtland's Warbler content with their regular curriculum.

BNT connected with ABC staff and donors on a field trip to Eleuthera in the spring. The group stayed at the One Eleuthera Foundation campus, which includes an organic farm and Hotel CTI. Conversations between all three organizations highlighted opportunities for collaboration projects including native plant propagation, community outreach, and ecotourism development. Falon emphasized the importance of investments in the relationship between BNT and the KWCT, especially as BNT has a new executive director, Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle.

2. Habitat mapping project (10 minutes; Mike Akresh, Demonica Brown)  
The project to map suitable habitat for Kirtland's Warbler in the central Bahamas is building on Eileen Helmer's work on Eleuthera in 2010. The lack of a research permit has held up ground truthing of the draft map, so truthing is now happening via other methods. There is some hope for in-person surveys later in the year. In the meantime, available resources will continue to be shifted to outreach and education.
3. Potential 2025 workshop in The Bahamas (5 minutes; Mike Akresh, Ancilleno Davis)  
Mike is considering at organizing a KW workshop on Eleuthera in Spring 2025, hosted at Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve or One Eleuthera Foundation. The workshop could potentially occur in conjunction with the Bahamas Natural History Conference (which has not yet been scheduled). Additional exploration and planning will occur in 2024. Falon Cartwright is planning to join this discussion and help develop goals for the workshop.
4. ABC-BNT 2023 field trip (15 minutes; Steve Roels, Dave Ewert)  
ABC staff (Steve, Shawn, and Dave) traveled to The Bahamas to meet with Bahamian partner organizations and lead a Kirtland's Warbler tour. Seven guests, all current or potential donors to the program were on the trip. Trip guests have contributed \$15,000 to the KW Long-term Fund and also a \$25,000 grant for actions to expand the breeding range. One tour guest still has yet to be asked for a contribution. The planning for a 2024 donor trip is already underway.

## **DAY TWO (Wednesday, July 19)**

### **A2. 8:00 – 9:00 AM – Breakfast**

### **B2. 9:00 – 9:10 AM – KWCT Organization and New Steering Committee Members (Steve Roels)**

Steve spotlighted new members of the KWCT Steering Committee and also outlined recent structural changes to the KWCT, including the elevation of the Monitoring subcommittee as a permanent subcommittee (no longer ad hoc). These changes are reflected in a revised version of the KWCT organizational chart now available on the Google Drive.

## **C2. 9:10 – 9:30 AM – Migration records (Mike Petrucha)**

Mike has updated maps of migration sightings (previously done in 2018). There were only four fall migration records in 2022. Spring 2023 had 18 records: 6 in Michigan, 6 in Ontario, 4 in Ohio, and 1 each in Florida and Illinois. Migration records have occurred in habitat structurally similar to that of the wintering and breeding grounds (dense shrub/scrub). Mike's maps of spring and fall migration records from 1851 to present are available on Google Drive ("Media">"Maps").

## **D2. 9:30 – 10:00 AM – Jack Pine Research Group**

1. Past, present, and future of the Jack Pine Research Group (10 minutes; Jason Hartman)

The group originally started as a way to facilitate research between the MDNR and David Rothstein of Michigan State University. It has since grown into a broader collaboration supported by the Good Neighbor Authority program. The main theme of the group is adaptive management focus on the question "How do jack pine forest managers make decisions in the face of scientific uncertainty?" Topics explored by the group include use of jack pine biomass markets as a way to subsidize plantation thinning, mastication of post-occupancy stands as a cost-effective way to reset vegetation, and the use of drones as tools for seeding and surveying regeneration and habitat structure.

2. Research updates (10 minutes; David Rothstein and Joe Young)

The bi-weekly meetings of the group are highly valuable to researchers, thanks to Jason's leadership. The group is a great opportunity to see science get applied on the ground and connect the researcher and manager professional communities. The existence of the group is also valuable as leverage to support research funding proposals.

One active research project is studying mastication as a tool to balance age class distribution in KWMA's. The study is evaluating jack pine regeneration, ground cover impacts, and soil impacts from mastication with and without follow up scarification.

3. Soil data (10 minutes; David Rothstein)

Research into the nutrient budgets of jack pine harvest in KW management areas shows that potassium is depleted from the soil when whole trees are harvested, but not when only the bole is harvested (and the branches are left on site). Other macronutrients (calcium, nitrogen, phosphorus) have a positive balance with either whole-tree or bole-only harvest. The depletion of potassium is potentially significant because this nutrient is important for drought tolerance, a trait that is likely to be increasingly important with climate change. This work, co-authored by Daphna Gadoth-Goodman, was published in January 2023 in *Forest Ecology & Management*.

## **E2. 10:00 – 10:50 AM – Expanding the Breeding Range Working Group**

1. Hiawatha National Forest (5 minutes; Paul Thompson)

Hiawatha NF is working on a programmatic jack pine management plan that would cover approximately 15,000 acres. Staff are currently truthing a database of jack pine acres and working with Sault Tribe on co-management planning. Many wildlife species are being considered, including Kirtland's Warbler, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and Snowshoe Hare. A proposed action is coming out soon, which includes early rotation management, possibly via mastication.

2. Ottawa National Forest (5 minutes; Brianne Boan)

The USFS is collaborating with MDNR and ABC to maximize the habitat benefits of the Baraga II jack pine management project. USFS staff will begin planning the Baraga III soon and is considering ways to enhance habitat in the Baraga I footprint as well. Public outreach will be a component of these projects.

Group discussion started by Chris Mensing: Will increasing habitat in the Upper Peninsula adequately compensate for the habitat shortfall in the northern Lower Peninsula? It will soften the blow, but will not replace the acres that have not been created in the core range (NLP), where birds nest in greater densities. Chris would like to see more urgency by the agencies to address the shortfall in the next decade to make the population more robust in the face of climate change uncertainties. Jennifer Kleitch said an interagency (USFS, MDNR, USFWS) meeting currently being planned will discuss the habitat shortfall and strategize ways to mitigate the dip in suitable acreage. Phil Huber suggested that more intentional habitat planning in the UP may achieve greater densities than expected. Carol Bocetti interpreted the mood in the KWCT and the higher-level agency leadership as confidence in the ongoing process to address the shortfall, not complacency. Paul Thompson expressed appreciation for the reminder from Chris about the importance of the work of the KWCT and the agency commitments to create habitat.

3. Michigan State Forest planning process (5 minutes; Sherry MacKinnon)

The MDNR is moving toward more intentional management for KW in the new state management plan with a goal of 50 KW pairs in the Upper Peninsula on state land. This goal will require approximately 5,000 acres of habitat. Key areas include the central UP (near Baraga Plains) and the eastern UP (Duck Lake). Desired management includes 300-ac minimum blocks and a reliance on natural regeneration. There will also be implementation and effectiveness monitoring.

4. Letter in support of KW management in the U.P. (5 minutes; Carol Bocetti)

The KWCT sent a letter of support for KW management on MDNR lands in the UP in June. The letter is available on the KWCT Google Drive.

5. The Nature Conservancy's Central Sands of Wisconsin Program (15 minutes; Hannah Butkiewicz)

TNC owns 3,200 ac in Adams Co., WI in 5 separate tracts. Currently, the parcels are mostly covered in red pine plantations. TNC is planning to manage the Preston North Tract (400 ac) for KW and is partnering with ABC to fund restoration through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The Preston North Tract will be managed in three rotating units to ensure continued availability of suitable KW habitat. The first harvest of red pine will occur this fall. Tree boles will be harvested with slash left behind as fuel for a subsequent prescribed burn. Jack pine planting will follow. TNC also hopes Karner Blue Butterfly will colonize the site. Additional Adams Co. parcels may be included in the KW habitat initiative in the future and TNC is interested in acquiring additional parcels and conservation easements in the region.

6. American Bird Conservancy's Sand Valley Project (5 minutes; Linnea Rowse)

This potential private lands project is adjacent to KW habitat planted in 2013 on land owned by Plum Creek. Red pine plantations from two blocks (150 ac and 331 ac) have already been harvested and ABC hopes the landowner will move forward with an RCPP application this year.

7. Cowbird management in Wisconsin (10 minutes; Davin Lopez)

The WI DNR is continuing to fund cowbird trapping in the months of June and July. Trapping no longer occurs in May because most captured birds were likely migrants that would not have remained in the area during the KW nesting period. There was no nest monitoring for parasitism rates in 2023 due to staffing shortages. Davin hopes to have better monitoring for cowbird abundance and parasitism rates next year because the cowbird population in central WI remains high (unlike in Michigan). **Action item:** Add WI to the eBird and BBS analyses of cowbird populations led by Nathan Cooper.

**F2. 10:50 – 11:00 AM \*\* Morning Break (10 minutes) \*\***

**G2. 11:00 – 11:30 AM – Ontario Kirtland’s Warbler Working Group and Friends**

1. Ganaraska Project (10 minutes; Ken Tuininga)  
70-ha site in Northumberland County recently purchased by Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. The land has mostly been in agricultural production for many decades and features sandy soils and mild slopes. Members of the Ontario Kirtland’s Warbler Working Group are collecting seed for ground flora restoration. Approximately 3 ha will be seeded this fall. Botanical surveys are also underway.
2. Museum and Packard Tract (5 minutes; Ken Tuininga)  
Museum: Owned by Simcoe County. Prescribed burn in 2018, followed by jack pine and red pine planting in 2019. Very nutrient-poor soils have caused slow and variable performance of planted trees and seeded ground cover. Patience will be required to see if tree density suitable for KW can eventually be achieved.  
  
Packard: 60-ha site planted in 2012 by Simcoe County. Has attracted multiple male KW, but only one in 2023. Challenges include beetle damage and lack of ground cover, which may explain why females have not been found at the site. Efforts to restore ground flora through overseeding have made some improvements in seeded areas. The 10 ha on the south end was logged in 2020 and planted in 2021, including overseeding of herbaceous flora.
3. New habitat opportunity on Georgian Bay, Ontario (15 minutes; Dylan Panamick, Peter Burke)  
A 2018 fire, sparked by construction of a wind farm, burned over 27,000 ac of jack pine forest on the coastline of Georgian Bay. First Nations lands, a provincial park, and private land are all within the burn footprint. The land is comprised of pockets of sand and wetlands dispersed among bare rock. Site access is difficult and only by water. Jack pine regeneration and ground flora post-fire recovery has been strong. Four male KWs were detected during point count surveys for the first time in 2023. The avifauna also features species often associated with KW, including House Wren, Eastern Towhee, and Brown Thrasher.

**H2. 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM – Human Dimensions Subcommittee**

1. Coffee Talk (5 minutes; Bill Rapai)  
Held April 14 at the Grayling Nature Center. Attendance was modest (15 people), but those attending included some important local influencers. The event may be held in Tawas City next year.
2. Jack pine planting day (5 minutes; Bill Rapai)  
37 volunteers planted 4 ac. Bill hopes the event can plant 10 ac next year to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the KW Alliance.
3. Kirtland’s Warbler Festival (5 minutes; Mike Petrucha)

This year's festival had a great turnout of approximately 300 people. The 2024 festival will be May 30–June 1. Nine people completed the entire KW geocache trail this year.

4. Michigan outreach – Spring/Summer 2023 (5 minutes; Dana Meder)

The calendar contest was started in 2003 by Kirtland Community College before the USFS took over the program in 2012. A Huron Pines AmeriCorps member was added to the program in 2015 to visit classrooms and lead field trips. In 2023, 1,029 students participated (864 in MI, 1 in WI, and 165 in The Bahamas). This is down from the pre-pandemic high of 2,180 in 2018.

USFS tour attendance in 2023 was low (41 people) after tours were not run 2020–2022 due to the pandemic. Audubon tours had 708 guests on 46 outings, representing 29 states and 4 countries. Improved advertising may help boost numbers, although the use of eBird hotspots is enabling birders to go out on their own. The USFS may work with a partner organization to run tours in future years and improve the ability of tours to communicate a conservation message to the general public (beyond just birders). A new video is now available to show before tours.

5. Bahamas outreach (5 minutes; Ancilleno Davis)

Teachers and students desire deeper curricular connections to the calendar contest. KW-themed lessons in subjects like geography, science, and social studies would help.

6. KWCT newsletter and website (5 minutes; Steve Roels)

Steve has produced three issues of the *KW Observer*, which is distributed to over 300 people. He is always seeking content, so KWCT members are welcome to contribute photos and text. Steve receives regular information requests via the KWCT website. The website is up to date, but needs design improvements and refreshed content.

7. Camp Grayling expansion (5 minutes; Bill Rapai)

MDNR rejected the proposed land lease but signed an MOU with the National Guard as an alternative approach to granting increased access. There are buffers stipulated for KW nesting areas.

8. Mass timber (5 minutes; Bill Rapai)

The HD subcommittee is assessing whether there is an opportunity to improve the jack pine market by promoting the use of jack pine in mass timber construction. Mass timber construction practices are growing rapidly, but from a low base. It may take some years for the growth of the industry to make a difference for jack pine, but the dream would be a KW-labeled timber product.

9. Tower lighting (5 minutes; Bill Rapai)

The HD subcommittee is checking the lighting on communications towers in KW breeding areas to identify any that have not changed their lights to flashing red, which reduces collision risk. SongbirdSaver.org (an ABC production) is a useful tool in the effort. Any owners of towers without retrofitted lighting will receive a letter from the KWCT encouraging them to change the lighting. The subcommittee is considering ways to formally acknowledge positive changes.

10. State bird legislation (5 minutes; Bill Rapai)

Legislation was introduced in March, but assigned to a committee that does not have a reputation for producing results. Bill is not optimistic the bill will go anywhere.

**12. 12:20 – 1:20 PM – Lunch**

**J2. 1:20 – 1:30 PM – Kirtland's Warbler Alliance Update (Bill Rapai)**



Jack Pine Planting Day 2023: 37 volunteers planted 6,000 trees on 4 ac. The primary limitation was the availability of planting tools. Bill hopes the event can plant 10 ac next year to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the KW Alliance, but more equipment is needed. Since 2014, the event has planted 9 sites totaling 16.5 ac and 24,600 trees. Coordinating Jack Pine Planting Day with a restoration event in The Bahamas would be exciting. A fall event, such as a volunteer bioblitz in past plantings is another interesting idea.

The Alliance is planning another trip with volunteers to Lansing to meet with legislators. Bill was interviewed by the Ottawa Citizen and the Association for Zoos and Aquariums. Bill also gave presentations at the Aldo Leopold Festival and Livonia Public Library. He has two more events already scheduled. The Alliance also conducts outreach via digital media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Blog).

The Alliance is currently undergoing structural changes; there is no longer an Executive Director, so the organization is being driven by the volunteer board. The board will be reassessing the organization at the end of the year to determine if a new Executive Director is needed. The Alliance is also seeking new board members.

#### **K2. 1:30 – 2:00 PM – Northern Pine Plains Partnership (Steve Woods)**

The NPPP is looking to build a collaborative partnership to take a more holistic approach to management of the jack pine plains. The group already has 9 partner organizations and is initially focused on the Mio Plateau. The geographic scope may expand in the future. Activities of the group include:

- identifying target species for management
- restoration of diverse ecosystem structure, function, and composition
- seed collection and propagation
- invasive species control
- mapping of historical wildfire footprints
- creation of firebreaks to mitigate fire risk and create ecological corridors
- increase prescribed fire capacity through training and expert recruitment
- review of KW management to improve biodiversity benefits for other species, such as butterflies and bumblebees

#### **L2. 2:00 – 2:05 PM – Kirtland's Warbler Archive Project (Mike Petrucha)**

Mike is seeking additional funding to continue the project; he is considering four grant opportunities, two of which are due in September. He is building a partnership with university libraries, which would host the archive. He is meeting with the Roscommon Community Foundation regarding a potential grant on July 20. Many partners have donated historical material, including the original KW Festival, and Mike invites additional material. He will also be looking through the Houghton Lake MDNR office for documents soon.

#### **M2. 2:05 – 2:25 PM – Long-term Fund Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

1. Long-term Fund governance document (5 minutes; Dave Ewert)

The subcommittee has prepared a governance policy that will cover the use of the three funds (ABC, Natural Resources Foundation of WI, and MDNR). This is a proactive initiative to come to an agreement on fund use before the KWCT can start drawing

money from the funds. The Steering Committee is currently in the voting process to formally adopt the policy.

2. American Bird Conservancy donor field trips (5 minutes; Dave Ewert, Shawn Graff)  
ABC donor trips to MI, WI, and The Bahamas have successfully attracted donors from a diversity of backgrounds. The same slate of trips is planned for 2024.
3. Long-term Funds balance updates (10 minutes; Shawn Graff, Jennifer Kleitch)  
ABC KW Long-term Fund – \$327,722 balance as of July 2023.  
Natural Resources Foundation of WI – \$25,000 balance as of July 2023.  
Once the combined balance of the ABC and NRF funds reaches \$500,000, money will start being disbursed. ABC has two foundation proposals outstanding and is aware of four planned gifts to the fund.  
Michigan DNR KW Dedicated Fund – \$2.2 million balance in 2022. This fund will accrue interest until it reaches \$4 million, at which point it will be able to disperse \$100,000 annually.

**N2. 2:25 – 2:35 PM \*\* Afternoon Break (10 minutes) \*\***

**O2. 2:35 – 3:10 PM – Kirtland’s Warbler Research**

1. *Deciphering survival and habitat use between the breeding and post-breeding periods for adult and juvenile Kirtland’s Warblers* (15 minutes; Haley Haradon)  
Haley has completed two years of field work and has one year remaining. He has assessed survival for 100 adults and 100 hatch year birds.
2. *Kirtland’s Warbler habitat use, reproductive success, and fledgling survival in red pine-dominated plantations in Wisconsin* (20 minutes; Ashley Olah)  
KW breeding was first documented in WI in 2007 in Adams County. Ashley conducted her study from 2015-18.

**P2. 3:10 – 3:15 PM – KWCT Presentations (Carol Bocetti)**

The KWCT presented certificates of appreciation to Bill Rapai and Mike Petrucha.

**Q2. 3:15 – 3:20 PM – Discussion of Winter 2024 meeting dates (Carol Bocetti)**

The winter meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13.

**R2. 3:20 – 3:25 PM – Field trip overview (Paul Thompson)**

**S2. 3:25 – 3:30 PM – KWCT meeting feedback request (Steve Roels)**

Steve will send out a meeting feedback request to attendees via email. Presentation slides for all presenters will be available on the Google Drive.

**4:38 PM: Meeting adjourned.**