

OAS Kirtland's Warbler Field Trip – June 7 & 8

An enthusiastic group of five OAS members traveled to Grayling to see Michigan's famous Kirtland's Warbler. Several people arrived on Friday evening to visit birding hot spots on the Au Sable Birding Trail, such as Wakeley Lake Forest Area and Hartwick Pines. There is a new publication that identifies great birding stops including Houghton Lake, Higgins Lake, St. Helens, Grayling and the AuSable River area. Get your copy at <https://ausablebirding.org/maps/>

The group joined the Michigan Audubon tour on Saturday morning at the Hartwick Pines Nature Center and then journeyed to a nearby stand of young jack pines to view the warblers. Unfortunately, the rain drove the Kirtland's Warblers into hiding during the morning tour. This did not dampen the spirits of the group. Our guide, Jim, invited us to return for the second tour. At that time, the rains had stopped and a small group of us were treated to a pair of KW near the trail displaying and showing off for more than 30 minutes. One person traveled from Oklahoma to see these famous birds. Participants kept their own list, but the following is a combined list of the various birding spots visited. Forty-eight species were reported with the highlight being the Kirtland's Warbler viewing. Thanks to all who travelled for their energy, fellowship and excitement.

Canada Goose 6	Common Raven 4	Brewer's Blackbird 3
Mallard 1	Blue Jay 8	Red-winged Blackbird 43
Common Loon 2	Black-capped Chickadee 4	Common Grackle 2
Bald Eagle -1	White-breasted Nuthatch 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 2
Turkey Vulture 8	House Wren 1	Eastern Towhee 1
Ruffed Grouse 1	Hermit Thrush 1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3
Killdeer 1	Wood Thrush 1	Evening Grosbeak -3
Mourning Dove 4	American Robin 4	Northern Cardinal 1
Chimney Swift 1	Gray Catbird 2	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1	Brown Thrasher 2	
Northern Flicker 2	Kirtland's Warbler 4	
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1	Yellow Warbler 1	
Downy Woodpecker 1	Ovenbird 2	
House Wren -1	Common Yellowthroat 1	
Eastern Wood-Pewee 2	Yellow-rumped Warbler 1	
Great Crested Flycatcher 2	Pine Warbler 1	
Eastern Phoebe 1	Nashville Warbler 2	
Eastern Kingbird 2	American Redstart 1	
Red-eyed Vireo 4	Field Sparrow 3	
American Crow 2	Vesper Sparrow 2	
	White-throated Sparrow 1	



Nature Center Ladies at Wakeley Lake Forest Area.



KW area listening and waiting to see the KW



Savannah Sparrow at KW area through scope.