

Kirtland's Warbler Outing

By: Christopher Zayachkowski

At 8:00 on the morning of Saturday the 9th of June the 10 of us met up at the Michigan Welcome Center to prepare ourselves to head out to Raco in search for Kirtland's Warbler. We arrived to the road that I had scouted the week before as it was the perfect habitat for Kirtland's Warbler with a sandy soil and many jack pines and the ones between 6-15 feet were the ones we were focusing on as Kirtland's Warbler only enjoy singing within a certain height of a jack pine. Now the path I discovered was about 1 kilometer until we got into proper Kirtland's Warbler so as we are a Naturalist Group it was enjoyable to watch the different plants, flowers, ode nates and other things that also dwelled in this habitat.

Starflower



Photo by: Christopher Z

Pink Lady Slipper



Photo by: Barb Scott

Once the group got to the proper habitat the bird was singing as clear as day and not too far off, very easy to hear which is nice when you're in a group and they project when they sing. Also, as it was continuously singing it was not hard to track down and by the end of the outing the whole group got to see this beautiful Kirtland's Warbler. Other bird highlights along this trip included: Sharp tailed Grouse, Dark eyed Junco, Hermit Thrush, Red Tailed Hawk, American Kestrel and Brown Thrasher.



Kirtland's Warbler

Photo by: Carter Dorscht