

June 7-8, 2018 – Kirtland Warbler Tour, Wakeley Lake Forest and Hartwick Pines

Leader: Kathleen Dougherty

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
Mallard 1
Common Loon 2
Bald Eagle -1
Turkey Vulture 8
Ruffed Grouse 1
Killdeer 1
Mourning Dove 4
Chimney Swift 1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1
Northern Flicker 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
Downy Woodpecker 1
House Wren -1
Eastern Wood-Pewee 2
Great Crested Flycatcher 2
Eastern Phoebe 1
Eastern Kingbird 2
Red-eyed Vireo 4
American Crow 2
Common Raven 4
Blue Jay 8
Black-capped Chickadee 4
White-breasted Nuthatch 1

House Wren 1
Hermit Thrush 1
Wood Thrush 1
American Robin 4
Gray Catbird 2
Brown Thrasher 2
Kirtland's Warbler 4
Yellow Warbler 1
Ovenbird 2
Common Yellowthroat 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
Pine Warbler 1
Nashville Warbler 2
American Redstart 1
Field Sparrow 3
Vesper Sparrow 2
White-throated Sparrow 1
Brewer's Blackbird 3
Red-winged Blackbird 43
Common Grackle 2
Brown-headed Cowbird 2
Eastern Towhee 1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3
Evening Grosbeak -3
Northern Cardinal 1