

Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team
Winter Meeting Agenda
February 3, 2026
10:00 AM – 3:30 PM ET



A. 10:00 – 10:10 AM – Welcome (Phil Huber, KWCT Chair and Steve Roels, KWCT Coordinator)

B. 10:10 AM – 12:10 PM – Breeding Range Subcommittee and Ontario KW Working Group

1. Breeding Range meetings in 2026: Topics and objectives
 - a. Acceptable habitat definition (5 minutes; Erin Victory)
 - b. Long-term population goal and white paper (5 minutes; Carol Bocetti, Erin Victory)
 - c. Interagency MOU and Breeding Range Conservation Plan (5 minutes; Michael Wells)
2. Breeding habitat (15 minutes; Michael Wells)
 - a. Accomplishments for 2025
 - b. Summary of currently available habitat
3. Core habitat creation in 2026
 - a. MI DNR (Erin Victory; 10 minutes)
 - b. USFS (Eric O'Neil; 10 minutes)
 - c. USFS experimental block (Dana Meder; 15 minutes)
4. Expanding the Breeding Range Working Group
 - a. Ottawa National Forest (5 minutes; Brianne Boan)
 - b. Hiawatha National Forest (5 minutes; Ashlynn Pryal)
 - c. Michigan DNR Upper Peninsula (5 minutes; Sherry MacKinnon)
 - d. Wisconsin DNR (5 minutes; Davin Lopez)
 - e. ABC projects
 - i. TNC WI Central Sands (5 minutes; Pat Weber)
 - ii. Yellow Dog Plains (5 minutes; Michael Paling, Jayme Strange)
5. Ontario Kirtland's Warbler Working Group
 - a. French River Provincial Park (5 minutes; Peter Burke)
 - b. Featherstone project (5 minutes; Ben Walters)
 - c. Algonquin Provincial Park (5 minutes; Ben Walters, Peter Burke)
6. Jack Pine Research Working Group (10 minutes; Jason Hartman)

C. 12:10 – 1:00 PM ** Lunch Break (50 minutes) **

D. 1:00 – 1:40 PM – Monitoring Subcommittee

1. Census (15 minutes; Erin Victory, Eric O'Neil)
 - a. 2025 results recap
 - b. Plans for 2027
2. Cowbird monitoring update (5 minutes; Nathan Cooper)
 - a. Report on BBS / eBird trends of cowbirds
3. Pairing rate study and integrated population modeling (10 minutes; Nathan Cooper)
4. Experimental habitat monitoring in 2026 (5 minutes; Nathan Cooper, Deahn Donner)
5. Monitoring of KW-associated species in need of conservation (5 minutes; Nathan Cooper)

E. 1:40 – 1:50 PM – Collaborative Initiatives for Jack Pine Ecosystem Management

1. MI Prescribed Fire Council and U of M Biological Station events (5 minutes; Bryant Eddy)
2. Northern Pine Plains Partnership update (5 minutes; Bryant Eddy)

F. 1:50 – 2:10 PM – Non-breeding Range Subcommittee

1. Habitat mapping (10 minutes; Mike Akresh)
2. Geotracking study (5 minutes; Nathan Cooper)
3. ABC initiatives (5 minutes; Steve Roels)
 - a. One Eleuthera plant propagation
 - b. One Eleuthera nature trail

G. 2:10 – 2:20 PM ** Afternoon Break (10 minutes) **

H. 2:20 – 2:50 PM – Human Dimensions Subcommittee (30 minutes)

3. KW Young Artists' Contest (Bill Rapai, Mike Petrucha, Steve Roels)
4. Jack Pine Planting Day 2026 (Bill Rapai)
5. Spring tours (Dana Meder)
6. KW Festival (Mike Petrucha)
7. KWCT outreach report (Mike Petrucha)
8. Bahamas update (Alvanna Johnson)
9. Updating general audience pamphlets (Bill Rapai)
10. Seeking new subcommittee chair (Bill Rapai)
11. KWCT newsletter and website (Steve Roels)
12. The Thing with Feathers (Robin Share)

I. 2:50 – 3:00 PM – Kirtland's Warbler Alliance Updates (Bill Rapai)

J. 3:00 – 3:10 PM – ABC Kirtland's Warbler Long-term Fund

1. 2025 grant process and inaugural awards (5 minutes; Steve Roels)
2. 2026 grant cycle and fund balance (5 minutes; Shawn Graff)

K. 3:10 – 3:15 PM – KWCT Coordinator 2025-26 Presentations (Steve Roels)

L. 3:15 – 3:25 PM – Summer Meeting Dates and Location (Phil Huber and Steve Roels)

M. 3:25 – 3:30 PM – Buffer Time!

Meeting Adjourns at 3:30 PM