



# Kirtland's Warbler Extension

## *From the Biggest Week*

Tour Leaders: Tyler Ficker, Jamie Cunningham,  
and Jehudy Carballo

May 15-18, 2023

*Visiting the Kirtland's Warblers breeding grounds is an experience that every birder should have! Although this endangered species is difficult to find during its migration from the Bahamas to Michigan, it's quite common within its breeding range. This part of Michigan also offers other fantastic birding opportunities. Additional highlight species might include Upland Sandpiper, Alder Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Nashville Warbler, Clay-colored and Lincoln's Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Brewer's Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak.*

## **Itinerary Overview:**

May 15: Depart from Maumee Bay State Park – Birding at Pt. Mouillee – Birding in the Tawas City Area

May 16: Kirtland's Warbler Expedition – Hartwick Pines State Park

May 17: Tawas Point State Park – Huron National Forest

May 18: Birding in the Tawas area – Return to Maumee Bay State Park

## **Detailed Itinerary:**

### **May 15: Depart from Maumee Bay State Park – Birding at Pt. Mouillee – Birding in the Tawas City Area**

Our group will depart from Maumee Bay State Park (MBSP) at 8am. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early so that we can get luggage loaded into the vans and be ready to go at 8. Our first stop will be at Pt Mouillee in southeast Michigan, about an hour from MBSP.

Mouillee is a vast complex of marshes, mudflat, open water, and thickets that attract species that are often hard to come by in other nearby locales. We'll focus on finding ducks, waterbirds, shorebirds, and rarities. While you'll encounter warblers and other passerines along the dikes, this stop will have a pretty heavy focus on scoping the open spaces that can hold up to 20 species of ducks, even in May! With just a little luck, we could find something really amazing like an ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbird, or better.

Once we are done at Mouillee we will continue our journey north to Mio, Michigan. If there is time, we'll make an attempt this afternoon to find a Kirtland's Warbler and could find many other highlights in this area including Upland Sandpiper, Alder Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Golden-winged and Nashville Warbler, Clay-colored and Lincoln's Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Brewer's Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak.

Once we are finished birding for the day, we'll check into our hotel for the night and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

*-Overnight: Tawas, MI*

## **May 16: Kirtland's Warbler Expedition – Hartwick Pines State Park**

Our day will start with another Kirtland's Warbler search. Although Kirtland's Warblers are endangered, they are rather common when you visit the proper breeding grounds.

After our hunt for the Kirtland's, we'll visit a variety of other amazing birding locations in the area. Possible stops include Hartwick Pines State Park, Tawas Point State Park, Tuttle Marsh, and others. We'll continue to look for any of the highlights listed for yesterday afternoon as well as any migrants that are moving through.

*-Overnight: Tawas, MI*



*Kirtland's Warbler habitat*

## **May 17: Tawas Point State Park – Huron National Forest**

In the morning, we will bird at one of the best locations for migration in the Great Lakes region, Tawas Point State Park. As migration is rather unpredictable, we won't be looking for specific species but instead taking advantage of whatever birds are around. Many shorebirds, warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other migrants will be possible. In the afternoon, we will either continue birding along the shores of Lake Huron or check out some grasslands and woodlands within Huron National Forest.

*-Overnight: Tawas, MI*

## **May 18: Birding in the Tawas area – Return to Maumee Bay State Park**

This morning, we'll leave the hotel with our bags packed. We'll spend the morning searching for any special species that we might have missed the last two days. Our guides will decide on the best birding locations for the day based on what species have been seen throughout the trip. We will return to Maumee Bay State Park by 3pm to conclude our trip.



*Blackburnian Warbler*

## **Trip Details:**

### **Cost:**

Price per person (double occupancy), from Maumee Bay State Park, Ohio: \$1,050

Single Supplement: \$250

Maximum Participants: 12

### **Price Includes:**

Expert Guides

Ground Transportation Throughout Tour

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees and Permits

### **Price Does Not Include:**

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Tips

Travel Insurance

### **Deposit:**

Payment in full is required to book this tour.

If you have an questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at [info@sabrewingnaturetours.com](mailto:info@sabrewingnaturetours.com), by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at [sabrewingnaturetours.com](http://sabrewingnaturetours.com).

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