

SUBJECT: Comeback Champs -- Kirtland's Warbler

FOR: MAY, 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Cathy Stepp, DNR Secretary

SUMMARY:

As part of the NRB citizen recognition items, DNR recognizes Ron Refsnider for his critical volunteer role as bird bander in Wisconsin's Kirtland's Warbler Conservation and Management Program. Since 2008, Mr. Refsnider has made it possible for DNR to track movements of individual birds and to document nesting successes and population growth.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is information. No action needed.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- |    |                                     |   |     |                          |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:

Rebecca Schroeder  
Bureau Director, Rebecca Schroeder, Acting

4/27/12  
Date

Kurt Thiede  
Administrator, Kurt Thiede, Lands

4/30/12  
Date

Cathy Stepp  
Secretary, Cathy Stepp

5/7/12  
Date

cc: NRB Liaison  
DNR Rules Coordinator  
  
Kim Grveles, ER/6  
Lance Potter, ER/6

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

*WHEREAS*; the Kirtland's warbler was placed on the federal endangered species list about 40 years ago when its population plummeted to less than 200 individuals and has now recovered to about 3,600 birds; and

*WHEREAS*; the Kirtland's warbler range has expanded from just 10 counties in Michigan's Lower Peninsula to include parts of the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, and Ontario since 1996;

*WHEREAS*; for 5 years, Ron Refsnider has supported the Kirtland's warbler conservation and management strategy in Wisconsin by volunteering his time and skills to capture male birds and to mark them with identification and color bands,

*WHEREAS*; Ron Refsnider's banding efforts have made it possible for the Department of Natural Resources to track movements of Kirtland's warblers, to define their breeding territories, to document their nesting success, and to measure their population growth in the state,

*WHEREAS*; The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources proudly declared Ron Refsnider as the Department's "Comeback Champ" in May 2012;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Scott Walker, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, commend

### **RON REFSNIDER**

for generously contributing to the Kirtland's warblers recovery in Wisconsin.

*Dated this 23rd day of May 2012*

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SCOTT WALKER  
GOVERNOR