

The project is within the range of the Kirtland's warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*), a state and federally listed endangered species. This species migrates through Ohio in the spring and fall, traveling between its breeding grounds in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario and its wintering grounds in the Bahamas. Migration is energetically demanding for birds of all species. During stop-over, birds are often faced with the need to acquire food in a short period of time, in unfamiliar surroundings, and while avoiding predators and competing with other migrants and resident birds for limited resources.

In the spring, migrating Kirtland's warblers stopping over in Ohio will have traveled thousands of miles, will be immediately in need of food to satisfy energetic demands, and are thought to be racing to the breeding grounds to establish territories as early as possible. While fall migration is typically not as fast-paced as spring migration, it appears that fall migrating Kirtland's warblers do not build up fat reserves prior to initiating migration, and therefore nearby stopover habitat would be increasingly important for this species.

While migration occurs in a broad front across the entire state, approximately half of all observations in Ohio have occurred within 3 miles of the shore of Lake Erie. During migration, individual birds usually forage in shrub/scrub or forested habitat and may stay in one area for a few days. Because so much of the southern Lake Erie shoreline is already developed, and stopover habitat is already so fragmented, the DOW recommends that this stopover habitat, (i.e. shrub/scrub or forested area), within three miles of the shoreline be preserved whenever possible. If clearing of suitable habitat cannot be avoided, to preclude adverse effects to Kirtland's warblers, clearing within 3 miles of the shoreline of Lake Erie should not occur from April 22 to June 1 or from August 15 to October 15.

The project is within the range of the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), a state and federally endangered bird species. This species does not nest in the state but only utilizes stopover habitat as it migrates through the region. Therefore, the project is not likely to have an impact on this species.

The project is within the range of the northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), a state endangered bird. This is a common migrant and winter species. Nesters are much rarer, although they occasionally breed in large marshes and grasslands. Harriers often nest in loose colonies. The female builds a nest out of sticks on the ground, often on top of a mound. Harriers hunt over grasslands. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction must not occur in this habitat during the species' nesting period of May 15 to August 1. If this habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Nesting upland sandpipers utilize dry grasslands including native grasslands, seeded grasslands, grazed and ungrazed pasture, hayfields, and grasslands established through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction must be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of April 15 to July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Nesting bitterns prefer large undisturbed wetlands that have scattered small pools amongst dense vegetation. They occasionally occupy bogs, large wet meadows, and dense shrubby swamps. If this type of habitat will be impacted, construction must be avoided in this habitat during the species' nesting period of May 1 to July 31. If this type of habitat will not be impacted, the project is not likely to impact this species.

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Summary: Letter of Notification -- Exhibit G (Part 28 of 29) electronically filed by Mrs. Gretchen L. Petrucci on behalf of North Coast Gas Transmission LLC