

## ***COWBIRDS***

You are a brown-headed cowbird. You are an invasive species in this region that does very well in disturbed habitats where forests have been cleared. You are a nest parasite which means you do not make your own nest, but instead lay your slightly larger egg in other birds' nests. To do this you need to find the nests and sneak in to lay the egg without being caught. You are having an impact on the Kirtland's warblers because they tend to be susceptible to getting their nest parasitized. If you are successful at getting your egg into another nest your chick will hatch a little sooner than the other eggs and will try to push out the other eggs. If other chicks hatch your chick will kill the others either directly or by being slightly larger and taking all the food. If your egg hatches, the nest owner will unwittingly care for it and raise it, leaving you with less work and the ability to lay eggs in other nests.

### **Here are the rules you must play by:**

- ◆ You have 3 eggs but can only lay one per parasitized nest
  - ◆ You must forage in open areas and need to collect 15 candies to survive
  - ◆ You do not build a nest but have to find completed nests for you eggs
  - ◆ If a nest owner catches you in the "forested" areas, you must leave immediately
- 

## ***KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS - susceptible***

You are a Kirtland's warbler. You are endangered and one of the reasons for your decline is the nest parasite bird called the brown-headed cowbird. This bird will sneak in and lay eggs in your nest. The chicks will then kill your chicks, so you end up raising the chick of the cowbird. You do not like open areas, preferring forested areas where you forage and nest. You need to make a nest, lay your eggs, and forage for food. But watch your nest because a cowbird may sneak in and parasitize it.

### **Here are the rules you must play by:**

- ◆ You have to make a nest
  - ◆ You have 3 eggs which will all be laid in the nest you make
  - ◆ You must forage for food in the forested areas and need to collect 10 candies to survive – at least 5 of those candies must be collected after you have made your nest and laid your eggs
  - ◆ You must guard your nest while you forage and can stop any cowbirds before they get to your nest but have no power once they are at your nest
- 

## ***KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS – non-susceptible***

You are a Kirtland's warbler. You are endangered and one of the reasons for your decline is the nest parasite bird called the brown-headed cowbird. This bird will sneak in and lay eggs in your nest. The chicks will then kill your chicks, so you end up raising the chick of the cowbird. You do not like open areas, preferring forested areas where you forage and nest. You need to make a nest, lay your eggs, and forage for food. But watch your nest because a cowbird may sneak in and parasitize it.

### **Here are the rules you must play by:**

- ◆ You have to make a nest
- ◆ You have 3 eggs which will all be laid in the nest you make
- ◆ You must forage for food in the forested areas and need to collect 10 candies to survive – at least 5 of those candies must be collected after you have made your nest and laid your eggs
- ◆ You must guard your nest while you forage and can stop any cowbirds in forested areas before they get to your nest.
- ◆ If a cowbird parasitizes your nest you have 2 options
  - Ignore it – you get no offspring but can spend the time foraging
  - Start building a new nest and move your eggs to a new nest, but you will not have this time to forage