

MAY 17 '50
Griscom, L. (May 15, 1950)

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOÖLOGY
AT HARVARD COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

May 15, 1950

Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne
Museum of Zoology
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

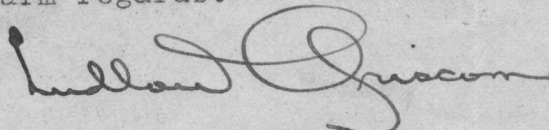
Dear Josselyn:

It so happens that I remember the Kirtland Warbler on September 9, 1919 very vividly indeed and have a considerable account in my journal.

East Goose Creek was and is some 20 miles due West of St. Mark's and at present is just West of the western boundary of the St. Mark's Wildlife Refuge.

The Kirtland Warbler was one of a small group of unexpected land bird migrants working through an extensive grove of cabbage palms and various deciduous trees just back of the coastal salt marshes. The Kirtland Warbler was immediately recognized as such by Jack Nichols and me. Every plumage character was noted, as well as its large size and the wagging of the tail. From one point of view, it was one of the most heart-breaking experiences I have had with birds, as I was carrying a collecting pistol and immediately loaded it and went into action. The bird was in point blank range and was an absolute dead shot, but the cartridge, loaded by hands in the American Museum, was no good and did nothing by give a sufficient snap to cause the whole bunch of migrants to dash away. We tore the country apart for the next two hours and were never able to dig this little flock of birds up.

With warm regards.



L. Griscom

LG/jr