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## Letter, Donald McCrimmon to Frank Dunstan, Heronry Visit, January 6, 1975

Donald A. McCrimmon Jr.

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY | AT RALEIGH

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
P. O. Box 5577  
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January 6, 1975

Mr. Frank Dunstan  
Rt. 1 Box 205-U  
Ruskin, Florida 33570

Dear Frank,

Thank you for arranging for my transportation out to the heronry. Mr. Pulsipher's brother-in-law took me out and I certainly appreciate his efforts.

My initial impressions are that the birds certainly nest much higher in the mangroves than my species do in the wax myrtle, yaupon, etc. in North Carolina. I assume this is the result of storm tides disturbing low lying nests. The mangroves seem to provide more cover over the nests than does the vegetation on the islands I work with. With the limited vertical site-availability, there seems to be little opportunity for the development of the kinds of vertical stratification Jenni has described in some Gainesville, Florida heronries. I would be interested to know if you have detected any horizontal interspecific segregation in your area.

I did not get a chance to call Jim Rogers while in the Tampa Bay area. We had some car problems and the auto spent most of the time in the shop while we were there. Transportation was a problem and I thought it best not to over extend my commitments. Perhaps Jim could write me in North Carolina, if he would like to strike up a correspondence.

I had an interesting visit with Sandy Sprunt in Tavernier and had the chance to meet Rich Paul and Jim Ogden. The afternoon of the 28th, Mr. Sprunt took my wife and I on a tour of Florida Bay where we saw Roseate Spoonbills, Reddish Egrets, Great White Herons and White-Crowned Pigeons (all lifers for me).

Sorry we couldn't get together, but perhaps I can get to Florida again soon. Give my regards to Dr. Meyerriecks.

Sincerely,



Donald A. McCrimmon, Jr.