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Request for Assistance

Florida Field Naturalist

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News and Notes

Dr. William B. Robertson, Jr., first FOS president, honored. — On 9 November 1976 in New Orleans at the First Conference on Scientific Research in the National Parks, Dr. William B. Robertson, Jr., received the Distinguished Service Award. This highest honor of the Department of the Interior was awarded to Dr. Robertson in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the National Park Service in the field of ecology and natural sciences.

Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks credited Dr. Robertson as being a major force in the development of the National Park Service science program.

"This quiet but extremely dedicated man has provided an outstanding standard of research excellence for other scientists to measure their accomplishments by," Reed said at the presentation of the award, "His service to the Department during his past 21 years of Interior service has been in the highest professional tradition."

Dr. Robertson's pioneering research on the ecological role of fire in the Everglades ecosystem led to the adoption of prescribed burning practices the world over, as well as to the first use of fire to manage the natural resources of a national park.

Request for assistance. — As part of our continuing studies of the population dynamics of Wood Storks in Florida, we recently color-marked 300 nestling storks at Merritt Island and Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuges with red patagial markers on left wings. Each rectangular marker (180mm x 50mm) is attached with a bright yellow button, and each has the letter "M" or "P" in black, followed by a 3 digit number. We hope to learn the seasonal movements of central Florida storks, and the characteristics of sub-adult plumages. Please report observations of marked storks to *John C. Ogden, National Audubon Research Department, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070*. Remember, some storks were previously marked in south Florida with round red wing markers, so carefully note the shape of any marker seen on a stork.

Fall 1977 Meeting. — At the Red Carpet Inn, Interstate 4 and Hwy 436, Altamonte Springs, on 30 September — 2 October 1977. Local host, Orange County Audubon Society. For information write Doris Mager, Chairman, c/o Florida Audubon Society, P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, Florida 32751.

Spring 1978 Meeting. — Tampa. Local host, Tampa Audubon Society.