

7-10-1979

## Letter, David Wingate to Jim Rodgers, Break in Project, July 10, 1979

David B. Wingate

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*In reply please  
quote the date of  
this letter and the  
following reference:*

10th July, 1979.

Mr. James A. Rodgers, Jr.,  
National Audubon Society,  
Tampa Bay Wildlife Sanctuaries,  
1020 82nd Street South,  
Tampa, Fl. 33619.  
U. S. A.

Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your letter of 23rd June. Actually I am very disappointed that we are unable to go ahead with the project this year but I know that you did everything you possibly could under the circumstances. I will certainly take your advice and apply for the new permit right now. In the meantime, I will try to make the best use of this break in the project to evaluate the results thus far. The absence of new stock this year will give me a better opportunity to evaluate the attrition rate of the pre-established birds. Also, it will be easier to distinguish locally produced young if there is any successful breeding this year.

*dead* On 17th June I actually saw a second-year bird carrying a large casuarina twig in its beak while in company with a full adult on Nonsuch Island. The bird held the twig in its beak while sitting on a dead cedar for more than ten minutes and then soared over Nonsuch Island with it still in its beak. Can this behaviour be explained as anything other than breeding behaviour?

I will keep you posted on the developments over the next two months.

Yours sincerely,

David B. Wingate,  
Conservation Officer.

DBW/dh.