

Dear Dr. Porter:

My name is Harold Robinson, and we met in Everglades National Park in February 1974. I want to apologize for making a nuisance of myself, but having admired your work for so long, I just could not resist striking up a conversation with you. For after all, your work can really be an inspiration to anyone with a serious interest in scenic and other nature photography. (And we can all be grateful to you for eliminating once and for all that old cliché of the posing of a human figure in scenic views, which in my opinion is practically always a detraction rather than ^{an} asset to the picture).

After leaving Everglades NP, I stopped for a day at Loxahatchee WL Refuge, and ~~the~~ found the headquarters area very interesting. While the birds did not seem as approachable as those in Ev. NP, there definitely should be some good photo opportunities here if time and patience were applied. The new boardwalk into the cypress swamp, somewhat remindful of Corkscrew but much shorter, is something to see with the large leather ferns, bright pink lichen splotches on the cypress trunks, and the many brilliant Cardinal air plants in the trees. I also really enjoyed observing the many water snakes of varying sizes sunning on roots and lazily striking at minnows in the shallow water. I was able to get several good shots from the vantage of the boardwalk.

A ranger there said that more than the usual number of Everglades Kites were nesting this year, but that area was closed off to the public of course. I especially wanted to see the Sandhill Crane, but was not successful. Maybe I'll be able to spend more time there next year.

You mentioned that you might visit the Okefenokee Swamp in the future with hopes of possibly finding Bachman's Warbler there. I believe I informed you that I lived about 100 miles from there. Although I assume that you usually prefer working alone (and I can certainly understand that), I did intend to mention that if and when you decide to go there, I would be interested in accompanying you, if for some reason you should want an accomplice. While I'm really not that familiar with the swamp, I could at least help you carry equipment. As I am now semi-retired (from many years in the motion picture theatre business), I can usually arrange free

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time on short notice.

However, as I said before, I can certainly understand your preferring to work ~~me~~ alone in situations like this, and regardless of whether we should ever meet again, I would like to say that I really enjoyed seeing you work and conversing with you those few times we met in the Everglades.

Best wishes, and

respectfully yours,

Harold Robinson

James H. Robinson

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Alamo, Ga. 30411

P.S.

During our conversations, you wondered where I could have seen your "picture". In looking through my indexed back files of Modern Photography, I note that pictures of you accompanied two of their articles:

Sept 1967 - Eliot Porter, How He Works

Feb. 1964 - Brilliant Color Landscapes By Eliot Porter
and Popular Photography - Dec. 1967 "Medication To Conservation (by Jacob Deschin)"

also thought you might like to see several of my Everglades pictures, so am enclosing several rather bad copies. Shot the bobcat in the area near where the alligator is crossing the paved trail. Saw this same bobcat I believe, three consecutive evenings near sunset. also am enclosing snapshot of you (with my wife). (No need to return these slides.)