

H. Ronald Pulliam Named To Direct NBS

H. Ronald Pulliam, whose research specialties are conservation ecology, ecosystem management, and avian population dynamics, will take over the reins of the newly emerging National Biological Survey—creature of Secretary Babbitt's effort to sharpen and focus scientific research across the board at the Department of the Interior. The NBS mission is to gather, analyze, and disseminate biological information helpful for good stewardship of natural resources.

A native of Miami Beach, FL, Pulliam received his formal training at U/GA (B.S., 1968), Duke University (Ph.D., 1970), and postdoctoral studies at the University of Chicago (1970-71).

Most recently, he was director and professor at the U/GA Institute of Ecology (1987-1994). Under his leadership, the Institute expanded from its research mission to a school at the University, offering a full graduate and undergraduate curriculum. His recent research focus has been on predicting the impact of land use changes on animal population trends.

Pulliam was highly recommended for the appointment to the NBS post by the National Academy of Sciences, which at the request of Secretary Babbitt conducted a nationwide search for qualified candidates. The Academy recently recommended the nomination of the current director for the U.S. Geological Survey, Dr. Gordon Eaton.

Babbitt noted that "We want Americans everywhere to understand and learn more about the health of our nation's resources. The NBS is a tool that will make science more accessible to the public."

Eugene Hester, who guided the NBS through its formation period, will continue at NBS as deputy director.