

Date: Mon, 19 Aug 1996 13:18:18 -1000 (HST)  
From: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
To: Marc Webber <marc\_webber@mail.fws.gov>  
Subject: MESSAGE FOR KIMBERLY AT TERN ISLAND (CC Marc webber)

Dear Kimberly:

*Burger n Berger*

Many thanks for your letter with the SOP with suggested changes that arrived while I was in Taiwan. My trip over there helping to put out satellite tags on nesting greens really went well. Another enjoyable experience (paid by them) and my third year in a row. The people of Taiwan are wonderful. I'll be sure to show you pictures of the trip when you come back through Honolulu and we have the opportunity to meet and discuss your June turtle experiences. Seventy one turtles up in one night is difficult for me to imagine from my experiences in the 1970's and early 1980's when, often, we literally prayed for more turtles in order to have "meaningful work" to do each night! We must never return to those days again.

Your suggested changes to the SOP look very good. However, I need to have more time to re-read and think about everything carefully. And also to confer with Jerry Wetherall. So I will write to you again about this in time for the flight in early September. I apologize for the delay.

I haven't heard if there has been an opportunity to collect the eight more eggs. Likely not. Nevertheless, I'll keep my fingers crossed. To confirm, if collection is possible the eggs should stay there incubating for 20-30 days awaiting a flight. It would be best to send them back after at minimum two weeks incubation (ideally three weeks), but not more than about 35 days incubation. I realize that juggling things like this isn't easy since flight dates (and collection opportunities) aren't controllable events. If/when the eight are collected, just let me know and we can explore available options at that time.

Regarding my not being able to work at FFS this September- yes, I also regret that absence. It has now turned into more than "just" a matter of money (charter costs, etc.). It is also a matter of time. I have so much scheduled as it is, between now and the end of September. Your offer to assist in my absence is much appreciated. But I think we will just let it pass for this season. The complications of collecting hatchling blood and storing in liquid nitrogen are simply beyond what I would want to see attempted without my direct involvement. Same applies, to a lesser extent, for the satellite attachment. In any event, I've already committed the transmitters I have on-hand for use on hawksbills on the Big Island.

Total number for greens this season for East, based on Jerry Wetherall's simulation model, turned out to be 366 estimate. Absolutely dandy news as the upward swing continues. The all-time record year WAS 1992= 384 nesters.

Best regards and Aloha, George

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