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The Nature
Conservancy
of Hawai'i



The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii
Molokai Preserves
P.O. Box 220
Kualapuu, HI 96757

August 15, 1997

George H. Balazs
Marine Turtle Research
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Dear Dr. Balazs:

I've included Joan Aidem's turtle notes from the years 1993 through 1996. I apologize for not forwarding this information to you previously. I'm afraid the procedure slipped through the cracks with the changeover of staff. Ed Misaki informed me that we should send you the turtle data hereafter. We're awaiting Joan's notes for 1997 and will send them to you after the turtle season.

I understand that you've been in touch with Charlotte Forbes. She's a dear friend of mine and a turtle lover at heart. She had very nice things to say about your turtle tracking projects. If you're ever on island, please stop by the TNC office. I have heard about your work for at least 10 years now and don't think our paths have ever crossed.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call at 524-0779 (direct dial).

Aloha,

Joan

Joan Yoshioka
Molokai Preserves

need

1996 Turtle Monitoring Field Notes

Moomomi
Joan Ridem

- 3/8 Hawaiian monk seal on beach, Perhaps recorded under 1995 field notes.
- 5/20 Turtle on beach W of Kalanypapa peninsula, Turned around & went right back out. No body pit, (Personal communication, Rick Potts, US Nat. Park Service naturalist) Perhaps recorded in 1995 field notes

(1) 7/15 Many previous trips to Moomomi finding nothing. Aborted turtle track in front of river bed. Small turtle which came in less than up to hi tide letter line, Went back out & dug a pit which was already washed over with water when we (Honolulu hiking group) arrived. Average sea, slim moon, lowish tide. 8:30 AM

7/18 Kawaloa Bay 10:15 AM No further turtle tracks. 5 wa flying overhead. Strong breeze. Rough seas

No more tracks during many trips to Kawaloa Bay

8/11 saw first uli on S side of island. Very early return

9/11 Kawaloa Bay 10 AM Kotea are back, Emmitt Aluli & Devonna McGregor found turtle tracks a few days ago apparently made Sept. 6 or 7. Tide low now. Seas choppy. Brist breeze, sunny. Fluffy white clouds & occasional black clouds with spray. 2 hunaikai, 1 ruddy turnstone. Very faint traces of turtle tracks just at the W side of the river outlet. Stick marks where two holes were - now filled with sand. These are well above the hi tide line but oceanward of where the river is running W below the dunes.

(over)

No further tracks.

11/4/96 Kawooloa Bay pavilion, 7³⁰AM Waves breaking way out. They have been up high on the sand. Large bright crescent moon in the E at 3AM. 4 ruddy turnstones 1 ulihi. Water has not been as hi as (2) pits. No hatch yet.

11/5 Dick Langer inspected (2) & found no evidence of hatch

11/6 Kawooloa Bay 4:20PM. Hurakai & 4 ulihi at waters edge
No sign of turtle hatch at (2)

#

1995

Green Sea Turtle Watch
 Field Notes J. Aidem
 Kawaaloa Bay

June 15 Sunny, warm, medium fresh trades, sand extends out 50' in front of pavilion, then drops steeply 10' to ocean. This bank tapers off well before the river bed. Jon Naevle reported fresh turtle tracks May 20. (1) 1/2 way between river + Kaehu Pt. very dim turtle tracks. Pit at edge of sand bank, ??? looks more man made than turtle made. Probable aborted crawl. (2) Another pit + probable aborted crawl abt 100 yds from bluff. Probably 2nd pit reported by Naevle in May. (3) Farther W. more faint tracks up to grassy bank + back to ocean. Perhaps more recent than 1 + 2. Dick Langer reported that friends had spoken of turtle tracks "all over the beach" last week. Plenty people tracks but I doubt that there were more turtle tracks than the aforementioned.

June 23 Moon last night 1/2 to none. Quiet seas, low tide, clear, light breeze. "new" turtle tracks 50' before gravel on dune E of river. Hole 10' up on dune (4). Looks like last night (June 22) lay. In edge of gravel second body pit (5) + more fresh tracks to water's edge. (6) On W side of river at 1st swale 2 body pits (7). Tracks coming + going to water's edge.

- June 25 Showering. No new turtle tracks at Kawaaloa Bay. Regular Nature Conservancy tour day. Some participants saw a turtle in the water off the farthest beach W. Also jelly fish + Portuguese man o war. Frigate bird in air. Booby diving over ocean. White tailed tropic bird flew by.
- June 30 Beach in front of pavilion not only about 30' wide with 3' drop-off to ocean. Calm ocean. Sunny + warm. New tracks come up to dune grass just W of 6 + 7. This is turtle (8). Come up to dune grass, turned around + went back to ocean.
- July 5 much dark limu in water + on beach up to high tide mark. Turtle (9) has come up from the ocean much farther E than any previous turtle. She crossed the path down to the beach from the grassy bluff. Much sand disturbance on path. Body pits

- July 20 Sunny, warm, brisk breeze, lots of junk, footprints & lime on beach, especially at W end. New tracks, probably last night, coming from water, proceeding to dune 75' W of #1; across dune, 3 body pits (16), the last one just E of sand blow out behind dune here.
- July 23 Regular Nature Conservancy low day. Fresh turtle tracks (17) a few hundred feet E of bluff, terminate at a hole with a lot of sand tossed about. This is not as far up the beach as the grassy bank. Cannot see where turtle returned to the sea.
- July 29 New tracks up to 2nd swale W of river (18) Body pits. These may have been made the night of the 23rd. They are old. Revised estimate of #17. This turtle dug a rather extensive hole 1/2 way up beach. Tracks 100' E of bluff & 100 yds. E of bluff coming & going. Tide low. Much seaweed.
- Aug 4 Steep sand in front of pavilion unlikely negotiable by turtles. This extends almost to the last trail down to the beach. Long grassy swells breaking on shore. Between #2 & #3 a new turtle track. Four body pits on the beach, very messy & disordered. About 15' oceanward from grassy bank. (19)
- Aug 8 Footprints indicate Emmett Aluli has been here. No new turtle tracks. Hole #3 at W end of beach has possible hatch.

I marked it with a tree branch,

Aug 13 met Emmett Aluli at Hoolehua Credit Union. We drove to Kawaaloo. Showed him all 19 nesting sites & gave him map. He took pictures. Indicated that he believed a hatch had occurred around #19. This is surely #3. Walked to far W end of preserve. Bristle thighed curlew on dune above tree snail site. 4 or 5 ruddy turnstones flying over ocean.

Aug 16 Attempted to chart turtle nests by pacing off distances between them. This works OK on ground but doesn't translate well to a quad map. Gave up on trying to convert paces to 16ths of an inch. Photostating & enlarging quad map is not a success either. The lines come out much too big & black if you get the map anywhere nearly big enough to put in all the turtle nests on Kawaaloo Bay

- Aug 21 Two steep step drop off in front of pavilion, Hatch at #5 marked with stick. No new turtle tracks
- Aug 22 Choppy seas, low tide (7:15AM) Sliver of moon rising at 3 or 4 AM. Sead flying. Lots of lime at West of beach, No new tracks.
- Aug 23 It rained a little all over the island last night, Cool. Overcast. Two iwa flying over the headlands, Enormous flight (hundreds) of some bird circling over the sea, Too far away to make out whether they are even passerines or sea birds, Perhaps re-turning plovers? Saw a plover later. No new tracks or hatches. Emmett was out Aug 24 & 25 & saw nothing new.
- Aug 27 Regular Conservancy day, No signs of any adult turtle tracks or juvenile hatchlings. No turtle tracks from Kaula Pt W either Iwa over bay. Group of 4 plovers flying.
- Sept. 3 Arrived Kawaaloa, Sunday 8:50 AM. Emmett was out Wednesday & saw nothing. Last night, Sept 2, he walked this beach & found lots of tracks on the damp sand below #13. I counted 55 baby turtle tracks there this AM. All the dry sand above is drifting & tracks are obliterated. A very few tracks around what remains of the body pits. No indication of which pit hatched so I could not mark it. Very windy, dry & dusty on the way in. The ocean has cut away the beach in front

of the pavilion so only about 6' of beach remains & then a very steep scarp. If any turtles hatched at #14 or #15 they would have tumbled over the edge into the water. Tracks would be impossible to see. Many campers here at the beach. Fishermen, too, Poles & lots of footprints along the beach. No other turtle signs

Sept 4 Lots of people camped here still for Labor Day Weekend. No new turtle tracks. Still remains of #13 hatch. Very low tide.

Sept 6 People all gone now. Very steep scarp in front of pavilion about 3' of beach. Scarp extends W clear to Naupaka Camp, tapering off there. Emmett was out here yesterday & spied baby turtle track coming down from #5 lay. This track wanders around the

(5)

Sept 6 (continued) beach + goes down to the waters edge. Very strange. #5 hatched 16 days ago. This track is quite deep + distinct. Many bird tracks, people tracks, crab tracks + mammal tracks on beach + dunes. This is very different, #5 is marked. I am anxious to dig it. Three bristle thighed curlews together on the beach. Also 4 ruddy turnstones flying + 3 hunaikai on the wet sand. Waves long, slow + flat.

Sept. 9 7:05AM Emmett Aluli was out here yesterday + saw nothing new. Beach in front of pavilion now just a gradual slope. No drop off here but 100 yds farther W. a fairly sharp drop-off has developed which goes on another 100 yds. No new tracks. Old infant tracks essentially disappeared. Two trucks of people camping at the pavilion. This is a great time to be out because the low sun coming thru the clouds sets up every footprint with shadows.

Sept. 10 Same campers at pavilion 2:45 PM. 3 hunaikai on wet sand. nice to have the piles of litter gone. NC apparently collected them last week. Much new litter has come in, however, + there are 3 local juice cans on the beach. This is unusual. No new tracks.

Sept 17 Kaeha Pt. Regular Nat. Conservancy day. Checked out sites W of river. #17 has hatched. This was not supposed to occur until Sept. 20. Some separate tracks direct to ocean. Just as many wandering around parallel to dunes. Staked site 17. Very hot, quite still day. Muggy. Davidna Mc Gregor with me. No other turtle tracks.

Sept 23 No new tracks. Old tracks gone. The tide has been very high but has not washed over #17 & #19 body pits. Swa flying over beach. One wandering tattler near Homes Beach

Sept 30 6:30 AM Waves have been hi on the beach all along the bay. Much disruption by waves, wind & possibly rain. All previous footprints eliminated. New human prints going directly from pavilion to water & back. Four lines of dog prints the length of the beach. Many many crabs by the waves. 2 ruddy turnstones

(6)

1995 Turtle Watch

Sept 30 (continued)

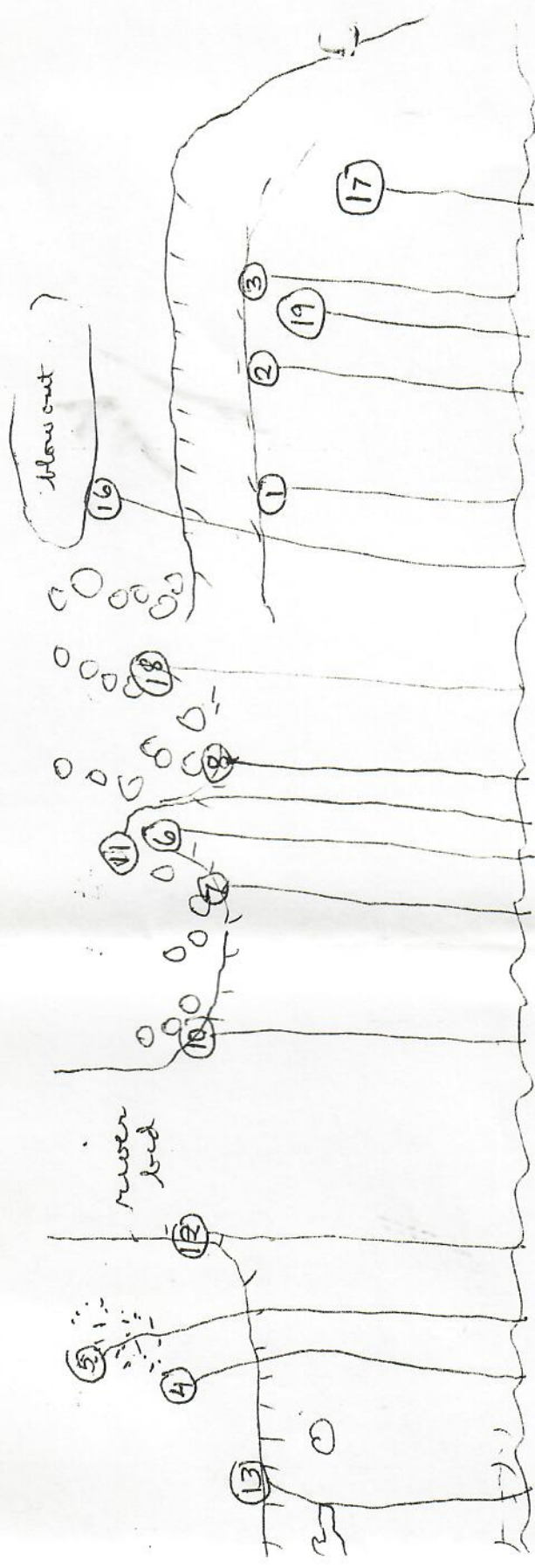
+ Two kurakai on the wet sand. Checked pit #19 but no apparent hatch.

Oct. 8 11AM Emmett Aluli, Brian Martin, Mary Costello, Liz Jackson, Karoa Aluli + I dug #17. 36" down found large nest of 73 very large eggs. One spoiled, others all hatched. All of us dug #3. Eggs looked a little smaller. These were 30-36" deep also. About 70 ^{hatched} eggs quite torn up. Three spoiled ones. Then dug #5 on the slope with the gravel. About 75 hatched eggs. 18" below sloped surface, 4 spoiled. Finished 1:10 PM. Took all to Bill Tuleloa.

Dec 17 Regular Conservancy walk 9:30AM Kawoaloa Bay, Raining in Hooilehua. Very strong breeze at Kaehu Pt. Sunny, drifting white clouds. Laysan albatross sitting in meadow between road + ocean. He made tentative gestures at flying away as we approached but did not leave. Later he spread his wings + off he went.

Sea Turtle watch 1995 summer
J. Aiden Emmet Aluli

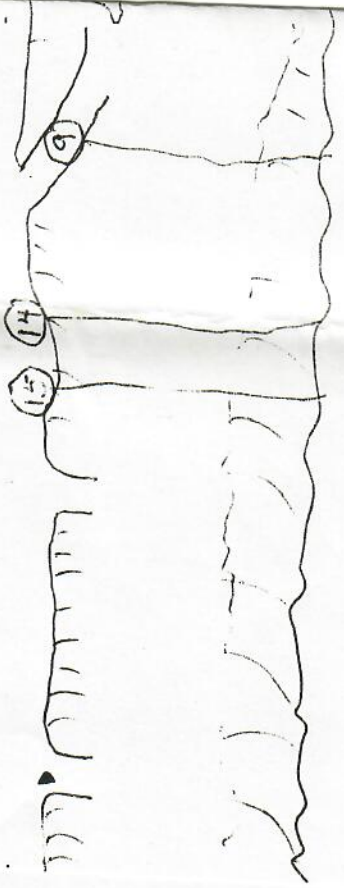
Onapaka
||||| sand bank
... gravel
-> log



Received
10/2/96

Green

Kawaaloa Bay



Faint handwritten notes:
 ...
 ...
 ...



Turtle Watch 1994 - Joan Aidem

- Sunday, June 26
 First chance to do turtle watch for me this season
 Dick Langer has been out two or three times but found
 no tracks. Arrived at Kaehu Pt at 9:50 AM. No turtle
 tracks at Kawaaloa Bay. Walked to West of beaches. No
 turtle tracks. Very windy, sea very rough. Large amt. of
 sticks, twigs + grass + much blue plastic along water's edge.
- Sat. July 2 Dick Langer walked along beaches with dogs + found no turtle tracks
- Wed July 6 " " " " " " " " " " " "
- Thurs. July 7 Quick check of beaches around Kalani Pt + at Kawaaloa
 Bay turned up no turtle tracks
- Monday, July 11 Kalani Pt 9:50 AM hot + clear, misting at Hoolehua. Busting
 breeze, choppy sea. Lots of sand in. Beaches swept clear here
 but much junk on beach at Kawaaloa Bay. No turtle tracks
 anywhere. Misting heavily by 11 AM
- Thurs. July 14 Kaehu Pt 4:15 PM. Much rubbish on beach. Hot sunny
 no turtle tracks. Some stony at Kalani Pt.
- Sunday, July 17 Regular Nat. Cons. monthly trip. Arr. Kawaaloa 9:30-ish AM
 No turtle signs. Did regular tour W. No tracks. Left at 1-ish.
- Wed, July 20 Kawaaloa Bay 2:15 PM Windy. Rough ocean. Walked W
 to Kaehu Pt. + back by 2:36 no turtle tracks

Went to Canada.

- Wed. Aug. 17 Returned home yesterday. Dick Langer reports no turtle
 tracks while I was gone.
- Mon. Aug 22 Leilani Pyle was to Moomomi with Lauren Gill's group this
 day. Reports no turtle tracks
- Sun Aug 28 Nature Conservancy tour day No turtle tracks. Sand pulled
 out from beaches leaving much exposed rock. Saw one, maybe
 two, brittle Theliped curlews (and one may have been 1st one in different place)
- Sun Sept 18 Nature Cons. tour day. Lots of rubbish on beach. Rain showers. No turtle tracks
 (over to postscript)

1995 Dick Lager observed turtle nest near E end
of Kawaloa Bay that had been exposed by wind
against the dune. Old eggs. Possibly a 1994 nest that
had not been detected by us. Maybe not.

1993 turtle report

J. Aidem

Monday May 31

Dick Langer discovered 2 sets of tracks on Kawoia Bay

① half way up dune 100 yds east of river, body pit. Another pit 20' below that. Marked with stakes

② 50 yds E of those another track led 1/2 way up dune to body pit. Below this another body pit. Marked with stakes

Very early for turtles from first logs have been July 3

Friday June 4 Tracks from 1 + 2 blown away by wind. No new tracks

Sunday June 13 Dick Langer found apparent false crawl at W. end of next to last beach West. Appeared to be from Sat. nite

Monday June 14 ③ Last night bright moon in E sky at 3:15 AM
100 yds E of rocks on next to last beach West + 50' E of yesterday's false crawl (see above) tracks up from the ocean 6' up dune. One large body pit (marked). Turtle did loop + went E 50 more feet. One deep pit there. (marked)

Wednesday June 16 ④ Dick Langer reported new crawl from Monday nite, June 14:
W of crawl #2, marked pit
I walked to next to last beach W... just E of June 13 false crawl tracks 10' up dune just below vegetation line

(E)

Large pit. Marked it

(6) Tracks up to rocks 30' from West of beach. Looks impossible for turtle to climb but pit above it. Marked

Sunday

~~Wednesday~~ June 20 Regular monthly Nat. Cons. trip, No new turtle tracks
Old tracks obliterated.

Wednesday June 23 No new tracks

Friday June 25 No new tracks

Sunday June 27 Dick went out. No tracks

Tuesday June 29 No tracks,

Wednesday June 30 Dick reported dry river turtle track, very short, 1/2 way between river bed + Kachup pt.

Thursday July 1 (7) New tracks at Kawaloa Bay. Track running from ocean clear back to mouth of river on E side. Three pits. Then across dune at river mouth to W side + back to ocean. Moon nearing full + coming up early evening. Marked pit

Sunday July 4 Dick checked beaches. No new tracks

Thurs. July 8 No new tracks

Wednesday July 14 (8) Kawaloa Bay, New tracks on W side of river. Entering first opening in dune, nest just below beach morning glory hi on dune. Marked pit

Fri July 16 No new tracks

Sunday July 18 -

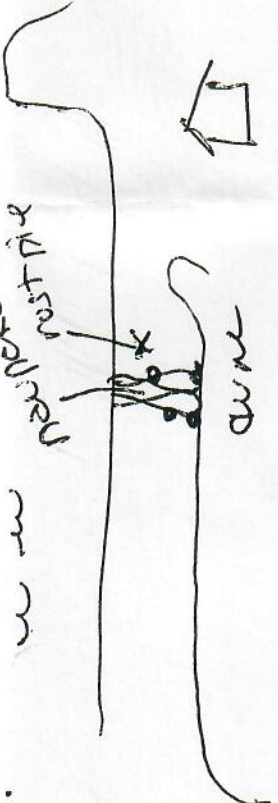
- Sunday July 25 Regular Nature Conservancy trip, No new tracks
- Friday, July 30 (8) Dick Leger found large turtle tracks $3\frac{1}{2}'$ across at Kawoalua Bay going up beach to dune just W of May 31 no 2
- Sat. July 31 Dick Leger noted apparent hatch right next to July 30 lay (8). These must be babies from May 31 (no 2) marked with 3 stakes.
- Sat Aug 14 (9) Dick noted new lay on slope of Kawoalua Bay. Three body pits W of May 31 lay. All on slope, marked.
- Sun Aug 15 Dick noted apparent hatch about the same place as above. Unknown which lay this was.
- Thurs. Sept 2 (10) New crawl W of river Body pit just a few feet below July 13 lay (#8). Kawoalua Bay
- Thurs. Sept 16 Checked out. July 17 lay (9) but no tracks apparent no doubt I blew it. Tracks might have been blown away by now.

Thursday Sept. 30 Kawaaloo Bay, Checked on July 30 lay (8) No
apparent hatch. Very little wind the last few days;
if a hatch had occurred it seems likely some tracks
would remain

Oct. 13 or 14 Dick reported apparent hatch at Kawaaloo (9) lay, Dimple but no tracks

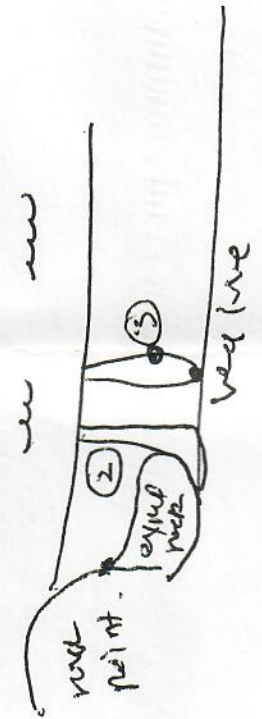
Mon Nov 1 Kawaaloo Bay, Checked out Sept. 1 lay (10) No sign
of hatch. Recent storm has done tremendous damage
to beach. If the babies hatch they will have a 6' drop
into a stagnant pool on their way to the beach

1) 31 May 93



2) false crawl. - end of. kalent.

13 June 93



3) lay. 14 June 93



4) 15 June

MOOMOMI PRESERVE

PARK AREA

alaoua

Kaiehu Point

Kalani

Naukalahi

Moomomi

Moomomi

Kawahana

GATE 2

Kakaaukuu

GATE

Gulch

Manalo

Kanulawa

