

Rod Miller - 8/4/77  
5-7 years - popping out  
everywhere - before they were large -  
Now no gas many -  
but starting to  
come back since land



May 26, 1977.

*Hale Degener*  
WAIALUA, OAHU, HAWAII

Dear Prof Balazs:

Mrs Degener & I have your May 20 letter and your interesting article.

I have lived at my Mokuleia Beach home almost continuously since 1936, and have NEVER once seen a turtle within the reef. Incidentally, a near neighbor, the highly respected plantation official Eckardt (don't recall spelling), lived at Mokuleia on the lot later sold to the Salvation Army for their Homelani Camp. He told me that some years before my coming a (monk?) seal had appeared on the reef fronting his home! It remained there a few days. I guess seals and flightless endemic birds were pretty well distributed throughout our archipelago until the most destructive animal - man - got here a few thousand years ago.

Physician Rod Miller's son, Rod Jr., is just about amphibious. He is home from a Main-land college & looking for Summer work. He is a young man of action, rather than a bookworm. He told me that not far from where he & parents live near Kawailoa Beach (61661 Kam. Highway, Haleiwa, Oahu) is a cove where turtles try to nest. Why not contact him by 'phone 637-5972?

*Letter in front house - Meadow Gold*



I am taking the liberty of writing my friend S.N. Castle, now of Volcano, Hi., 96785, about your project. He is "turtle-wise." As a young man, he had a special Territorial permit regarding them.

When in the field, should you not wear sand-colored suits to reduce fear, or are turtles too lethargic to take much notice of something dark?

With algae so heavily infested with all kinds of invertebrates, are not the turtles getting quite a lot of concentrated protein while browsing on rather poorly nourishing water-logged algae? Do stomach contents show they prefer more nourishing food like Ruppia, a marine Angiosperm or "Flowering Plant.?"

Is not turtle homing similar to that of ~~XXXX~~ birds and even salamanders, rather than chemical-ly like that of fish like the salmon?

Do they bask in the sun to clean their carapaces of marine organisms, or to harden the carapace, or both?

Do you know our tenant the Zoologist Bill Cooke?

Aloha,

*Hale Degener*