

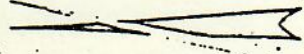
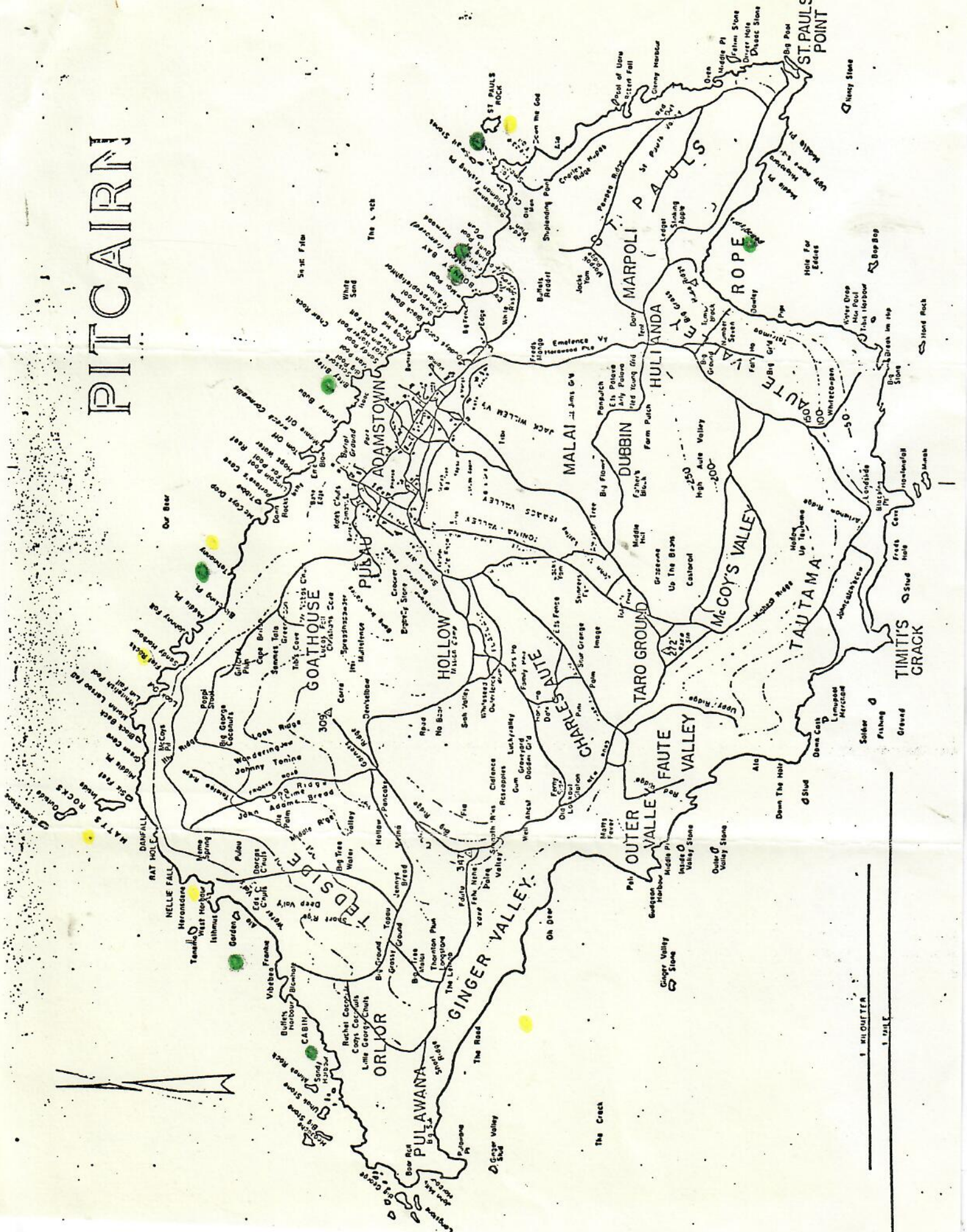
Brief Summary of Knowledge on Sea Turtles of Pitcairn and Oeno

September 1984

G.H. Balazs

1. Two species are known to occur in adjacent waters, the green turtle, Chelonia mydas, and the Hawksbill, Eretmochelys imbricata.
2. The loggerhead, Caretta caretta, was previously thought to be present, but has not been confirmed through coastal sightings or photographs of dried shells.
3. Evidence of nesting has not been found at Oeno, even though the islanders visit this site each year during November-January when breeding would be expected to occur in southern latitudes.
4. There seems to be no traditional/historical evidence among the islanders of turtles ever having nested in the past on Oeno (or Pitcairn). ie gathering of eggs, raising of baby turtles for pets, hunting turtles while the male and female are copulating and easy to catch)
5. Turtles appear to be the most abundant/concentrated in a deep area of the Oeno lagoon where large adult-sized green turtles are sometimes captured (for food?).

PITCAIRN



1 MILE
1/2 MILE

Sightings

January				
February	8,	16	HB,	G
March	20		G	
April	4,	11	G,	HB
May	2,	14	G,	HB
June	6		HB	
July				
August	30		G	
September	8		G	
October	13		G	
November	28		G	
December	9		HB	
January	23		HB	



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OF PITCAIRN, HENDERSON, DUCIE
AND OENO ISLANDS
C/o British Consulate-General
Private Bag
Auckland
New Zealand

17 August 1983

Mr George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine
Biology
University of Hawaii
P O Box 1346
Coconut Island, Kaneohe
Hawaii 96744
USA

Dear Mr Balazs

Many thanks for your February note and accompanying newspaper cutting.

Since last we corresponded further information about turtles has been received from Pitcairn and I offer the following up-date:

Trent Christian, Steve's son, is keeping a record of sightings for twelve months (commencing October/November 1982). He has been asked to note the location of each sighting, comment on the turtle's activity when seen and, if possible, to identify the species.

According to our advice no one has discovered a turtle nesting site on Oeno but possibly the timing of the Pitcairners' visits (usually November - January) does not coincide with the egg-laying or hatching season.

...
To help positively identify the species captured at Pitcairn (and Oeno) I enclose a set of ten photographs taken by Steve Christian. Shell length is recorded on the back of each print together with the name of the owner. If the shell is being displayed by someone other than the owner their name is given in parentheses.

When we receive the record of sightings a copy will be forwarded to you. In the meantime we would appreciate any comment on identification of the shells shown in the photographs.

Many thanks for your help and continued interest.

Yours sincerely
G D Harraway
G D Harraway

enc.



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U.S.A.

7 September 1984

Dear Mr Balazs

Trent Christian has now sent to us his list of turtle sightings for the year ending 31 January 1984.

... This information will now be used as a basis for a stamp issue we hope to release in 1986. A copy of the dates and positions of sightings is enclosed for your information.

John Sweeney
G D Harraway
G D Harraway

enc.