

9/13 called me
- will put fine sand
to detect hatchling emergence

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Sept. 2 6, 1984

Mr. George Balazs
National Marine Fisheries Service
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P.O. Box 3830
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Dear George:

I returned here from Maine on the 3rd of this month and was much interested to see what the turtles had done at my beach during my absence. From Penny's notes it appeared that the turtle had attempted to nest on the dates shown below.

July 12 ?

July 17

July 24

Aug. 8

Aug. 17

Aug. 25

Aug. 28

I suggested to Jackson that the number of visits suggested that more than one turtle had come up and that it might be worth taking measurements of the width of the tracks to see if there was any variation.

The Aug. 28 tracks measured 26.3 ± 1.4 "
Std. Dev. which I have labeled Turtle "A". 5 measurements
were made. ₅

The Aug. 25 tracks measured 19.3 ± 2.17 "
Std. Dev. 11 measurements were made. I have labeled this
Turtle "B".

The July 24 tracks measured 27", but only *one*
measurement could be made of this. This is probably

Turtle "A". The rest of the tracks were too obliterated to measure.

A turtle was caught in the rocks after attempting to nest in 1982. She measured 33" in length and her tracks were 25" to 28" in width. The average would be 26.5" This may have been Turtle "A". The turtle that successfully nested in 1976 may also have been Turtle "A2, since as I recall her tracks were similar to those of the 1982 turtle. Some where I have a picture of the 1976 tracks with a tape laid accross them, but I can't locate it.

If the length of these turtles is proportional to the width of their tracks, Turtle "B" would be rather small at 24.2" in length. Could Turtle "B" be one of the 1976 hatchlings returning to the beach of its birth? That would be 8 years to reproductive age. This may be too short. What do you think?

I'm wondering how we can monitor the number of hatchlings that are born from these nests if any real nests exist. It is difficult now to locate any nests that may have eggs. We might maintain a smooth raked area between the possible nests and the sea and hope to find the tracks of small turtle hatchlings, but as I remember from the 1976 nest the small turtles leave very little trail in dry sand. Perhaps you may have some suggestions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John' or similar, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.